



Student Assessment News

Connecticut State Department of Education • Performance Office

October 2023

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)
CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov

Interim Assessment Updates

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The interims are a useful way to check student progress and to gather information about learning that can alter the instruction provided. Interims offer flexibility and can be used for professional development or in class with students in a variety of ways. For details, refer to the interim assessment [web page](#) or check out the [Interim Assessments: Smarter Balanced and Next Generation Science Standards](#) guide to answer questions about test format, administration, scoring, reporting, universal tools, and designated supports and accommodations.

As the state-wide assessment module in CT-SEDS is being updated by PCG, please refer to the [2022-23 Manually Entering Designated Supports and Accommodations for Interim Assessments brochure](#) for considerations that impact the selection of accommodations prior administration of Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs). Once designated supports and accommodations from implemented IEPs/Section 504 Plans sync to TIDE, guidance in the brochure will be updated accordingly.

Thank you to our wonderful Connecticut educators for representing us at the Smarter Balanced State Network of Educators meeting in July in Denver!

Connecticut educators who participated were: Alicia Lorenzo, Meriden; Bob Janes, East Hartford; Brendan Lynch, Avon; Catherine Bosco, Naugatuck; Elizabeth Medynski, CREC; Erica Courtemanche, East Hartford; Janet Abbott, Woodstock; Jesse Garcia, Waterbury; Joanna Tysko, East Hartford; Kara Hennessey, Coventry; Kim Minor, East Hartford; Kristen Hunter, Old Saybrook; Marie Gordon Hall, Jumoke Academy; Michelle Horn, Madison; Roxanna Lopez, Berlin; Sarah Worley, CREC; Stephen Jewell, Portland; Vita Beebe, Windsor Locks; Charity Wilson, Norwich



Connecticut Alternate Assessment



Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment



CONNECTICUT SAT School Day

Special Populations Updates

Updated Web Page for Reader Supports

Students may benefit from reader supports to help with visual, print, or language needs. The text-to-speech/read aloud web page was updated to include an explanation for the purpose and types of supports available, including screeners, such as the Decision Guidelines for Text-to-Speech, to aid in Planning and Placement Team (PPT) recommendations. Please visit this [updated webpage](#) for more information.

CT SEDS Enhancements

The CSDE, in collaboration with PCG, is developing enhancements to help support PPTs and Section 504 teams complete the state assessment module. There is a new state testing resource tab on the CT-SEDS dashboard and a [new resource link](#) on the CSDE Student Assessment webpage that provides teams with information on accessibility features and accommodations, including these two quick guides:

[Assessment Resources for PPT and Section 504 Teams](#)

[Description of Designated Supports and Accommodations](#)

Additionally, the CSDE and PCG are working to initiate a nightly one-way import of student accommodations from CT-SEDS to TIDE for students with implemented IEPs and 504 Plans. Details are coming soon.

LAS Links Reader Options Table

Below are new accessibility resources specific to dually identified students in Grade K-12 with an active IEP or Section 504 Plan who require accommodations that promote access to print/language when participating in the annual LAS Links assessment.

- [LAS Links Decision Guidelines for Text -To-Speech Accommodation for the Reading Domain](#)
- [LAS Links Documented Evidence for a READ ALOUD Accommodation for the Reading Domain](#)

CAAELP Individual Student Reports and Scoring

The Performance Office anticipates that the Individual Student Reports (ISRs) for the Connecticut Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency (CAAELP) will be available by early November 2023. These ISRs will be available within the Centralized Reporting System (CRS). Until that time, we suggest that districts send out Continuation of Services or Exit from EL/ML Status letters for students who participated in the LAS Links. For students who participated in the CAAELP, districts should send a letter to families indicating the following:

- Scores are being verified for the CAAELP and will become available later in the fall;
- Exit criteria for the CAAELP has been determined and is posted;
- Students should continue to remain in EL/ML services until they have met exit criteria; and
- Letters should be sent to parents/guardians once scores are released outlining Continuation of Services or Exit from EL/ML Status.

CAAELP Practice Tests

The CAAELP practice tests are live the [Alternate Assessment Portal](#). Practice Test Administrator Directions and Scoring Rubrics Booklets can be found on the [CAAELP Resource Page](#).

A Word Prediction accommodation is available on the Smarter Balanced Math and ELA open-ended items for students with a documented need per an IEP/Section 504 Plan. Additionally, EL/ML students who have benefitted from using word translations on the math assessment now can have a full Spanish presentation of the math assessment using the toggle feature. Refer to the [Accessibility Chart](#), for a current listing of universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations available, along with new features available to students on the Smarter Balanced and NGSS.

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Special Populations Updates

CT-SEDS Implementation Deadlines

The timeliness for determining eligibility for alternate assessments impacts student assignments to state assessments, especially as the CSDE provides test vendors with student rosters as soon as late December/early January. It is recommended that PPTs make determinations and finalize eligibility within CT-SEDS following the guidance below.

Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Eligibility Form Verification in CT-SEDS

CT-SEDS Implementation	Assessment
Fully Implemented IEP by December 29, 2023	Eligibility forms must be approved, verified, and implemented within the IEP in CT-SEDS for the following assessments for the students to be correctly registered for: CAAELP (students identified as EL/ML in Grades K-12); and CTAA and CTAS (Grade 11)
Fully Implemented IEP by February 1, 2024	Eligibility forms must be approved, verified, and implemented within the IEP in CT-SEDS for the following assessments for the students to be correctly registered for the: CTAA (Grades 3-8, and newly identified students in Grade 11); and CTAS (Grades 5, 8, and newly identified students in Grade 11)

Connecticut Alternative Assessment System

The Connecticut Alternate Assessment System is designated for students with significant cognitive disabilities. This system includes:

- the Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) for English language arts and mathematics for eligible students in Grades 3-8 and 11;
- the Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS) Assessment for eligible students in Grades 5, 8, and 11; and
- the Connecticut Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency (CAAELP) for students identified as an English learner/multilingual learner (EL/ML) with significant cognitive disabilities in Grades K-12.

The PPT will determine if the student meets eligibility criteria by completing the form within CT-SEDS. Teachers will no longer submit the eligibility form through the Data Entry Interface. Once the eligibility form is completed in CT-SEDS and the IEP is fully implemented, the student will be officially identified as qualifying for alternate assessments. A nightly import will occur between CT-SEDS and TIDE to populate the student's Alt Flag indicator, which will allow the student access to the alternate assessments through the Test Delivery Interface. As a reminder, the student must also be identified under IDEA in PSIS for the import to be successful. More details about this sync are coming soon.

[Annotated Alternate Assessment System Eligibility Form](#)

[FAQ Alternate Assessment System](#)

[FAQ Alternate Assessment System Eligibility Form](#)

[Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Participation Guidelines for Planning and Placement Teams Flowchart](#)



Connecticut Alternate Assessment



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Connecticut Alternative Assessment System Training

The required, annual, online *Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Training* is now available on the portal for teachers who have the primary responsibility for assessing students with significant cognitive disabilities on the Connecticut Alternate Assessment System. Teachers must be assigned a TEA user role in TIDE and should complete the training early in the year for the following assessments: Connecticut Alternate Assessments (CTAA) for Math and ELA (Grades 3-8 and 11) and Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS) Assessment (Grades 5, 8, and 11).

Sessions can be accessed as many times as needed. Teachers must complete and pass the associated quiz to attain trained status for administration of the CTAA and CTAS. Refer to the Alternate Assessment webpage and [training resources](#) for more information. Additionally, please refer to the [Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Training- Overview for District Administrators](#) and the [Overview for Teachers Administering the Alternate](#) as appropriate.

Also note that a separate online training will be available to teachers administering the Connecticut Alternate Assessment for English Language Proficiency (CAAELP) for eligible ELs/MLs with significant cognitive disabilities in Grades K-12. Educators administering the CAAELP must also be assigned the TEA user role. More information will be coming soon. If you have any questions, please contact [Deirdre Ducharme](#) or [Katie Seifert](#).

CT SAT School Day Updates

The [Slides and recording](#) are posted from the CT SAT Test Coordinator webinar that was held September 26 and 28. Additional trainings are planned and information about registration will be shared soon.

Accommodations for the CT SAT

As PPTs and Section 504 Teams convene this fall and winter, consider how your student's needs may be impacted by taking a shorter SAT. For example, students who may have required limited test time, or testing across two days in previous years, more than likely will be able to complete the CT SAT School Day in one day. Additionally, educator teams, including PPT and Section 504 teams, should consider how students' needs can be met through the digital tools and accommodation available in Bluebook. Certain accommodations may no longer be necessary if needs can be met through the embedded digital tools.

Bluebook™ is a custom digital exam application that students will use to take the SAT® and the PSAT-related assessments. This testing app makes the test day easier and faster for students and proctors. Bluebook supports testing on Mac and Windows devices, iPads, desktops, and school-managed Chromebooks. Bluebook must be installed before test day.

Students can practice and get familiar with the testing platform in advance by downloading Bluebook and taking a full-length practice test or trying out a test preview. For additional practice, students still have access to Khan Academy® learning resources, which include overviews, videos, articles, worked examples, and additional digital SAT questions for students to test their knowledge.

Learn more: bluebook.collegeboard.org

Digital Tools Available to All Students in College Board's Bluebook

Zoom
Calculator (Desmos)
Math Reference Sheet
Annotator (highlighter and notepad)
Mark for Review
Answer Eliminator (strikethrough)
Question Navigator (review specific questions)
Expand Passage or Item
Student Clock (counts down time for each section and gives a 5-minute
Line Focus (uses highlighting to guide students as they read)

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Summative Assessment Calendar for 2023-24

Assessment	Dates
Secure Browser for Smarter, NGSS and CTAA	To prepare for the 2023-24 school year please ensure you have updated the secure browser on each staff and student device. Please access the Technology Resources to support this process.
English Language Proficiency Assessment-LAS Links	January 2—March 1, 2024
CAAELP (Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency)	February 1—March 29, 2024
Connecticut SAT School Day	March 4 – April 19, 2024 (Within the test window, schools can choose primary and make-up test dates.)
NGSS	February 5– May 31, 2024 (Grade 11) March 25– May 31, 2024 (Grades 5 and 8)
Connecticut Alternate Assessment—CTAA	March 25– May 31, 2024
Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment—CTAS (Administered throughout the year)	(Upload Window for Submission through the DEI: CTAS Student Score Worksheet) March 25-May 31, 2024 (Grades 5, 8, and 11)
Connecticut Smarter Balanced Assessments	March 25-May 31, 2024
Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment	Anytime during the school year.

Register for email updates

To automatically receive the *Student Assessment News* and/or other announcements, [register for e-mail updates](#) on the Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal.

