



Student Assessment News

Connecticut State Department of Education • Performance Office

October 4, 2022

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

Smarter Balanced and NGSS Interim Assessments

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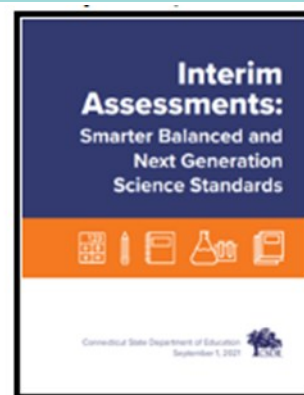
The CSDE's assessment team has developed the **Interim Assessments: Smarter Balanced and Next Generation Science Standards** guide to answer questions about test format, administration, scoring, reporting, universal tools, and designated supports and accommodations. Additional information can be found on the CSDE [interim assessment webpage](#).

There are two types of Interim Assessments available. Teachers can choose between **Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs)** and **Interim Assessment Focused Blocks (FIABs)**. **FIABs** focus on fewer assessment targets than most current IABs and are designed to measure smaller bundles of content to give teachers a better understanding of students' knowledge and academic performance. They provide teachers with precise next steps for instruction.

In comparison, **IABs** measure a limited number of standards (or assessment targets) at greater depth and can support curriculum and instruction. These tools can help classroom teachers identify strengths and weaknesses of an individual student or a small group of students on specific content and skills aligned to the Connecticut Core Standards (CCS). The scope, sequence, number, and timing of the IABs can be determined at the district/school/classroom level.

There are a variety of universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations available to students on the Interims. Take some time to review these accessibility supports and model with your students how to use them with the online platform. Additionally, there are a variety of language supports available to English learners/multilingual learners. For details, refer to the [Embedded and non-embedded Designated Supports for English learners/Multilingual learners brochure](#) and the [Translation Glossary for Math](#).

Contact [Cristi Alberino](#) if you have any questions.



Individual Student Reports for Summative Assessments

The Connecticut State Department of Education and Cambium Assessment Incorporated send annual Individual Student Reports (ISRs) on paper for the Smarter Balanced Assessment, the Next Generation Science Standards Assessment, the Connecticut Alternate Assessment for math and English language arts, and the Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment. All districts should already be in receipt of these reports from the 2021-22 school year. Please contact the Help Desk at 844-202-7583 with any questions.



Connecticut Alternate Assessment



Connecticut
Alternate
Science
Assessment



CONNECTICUT
SAT School Day

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Advanced Placement Updates

For 2023 Advanced Placement® (AP) testing, AP coordinators must order tests for students by **November 15, 2022**. This is the deadline to submit exam orders for all full-year and first-semester AP courses, and exam only sections. The late [order fee](#) applies for exams ordered after this date. A [fee](#) also applies for exams cancelled after this date. Please visit the [College Board's AP Central](#) for more information.

The CSDE and College Board will cover the entire cost of the **2023 AP** exam fees for all students from low-income families who attend public school in Connecticut. The AP coordinators will indicate in the AP Registration and Ordering (APRO) site a student's low income status. Since the AP, PSAT, and SAT are considered part of a CSDE State Educational Program, the AP, PSAT, and SAT coordinator can be given access to a student's income eligibility status. To request access, the coordinator must complete the Disclosure Release form to ensure that they have an understanding of the USDA regulations and do not use this information for other purposes.

Please note that once the AP, PSAT, or SAT coordinator completes the [Disclosure Release Request for Free or Reduced Eligibility Status of Students in the School Nutrition Program form](#) and it is reviewed and approved by the district or school's determining official (the person that processes the free and reduced-price meal applications), they can access the free, reduced and paid information **directly via the CSDE's Public School Information System (PSIS)** without having the determining official provide them with a list of children who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals.

The deadline for the AP coordinator to indicate in APRO students who are eligible for the fee waiver is April 30, 2023. [Learn more about AP Exam fee reductions](#).

Districts implementing the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) should not report all students as being from low-income families. All schools should use district data for free or reduced-price meal eligibility in PSIS to determine if a student should be indicated as "low-income" on the AP invoice. Remember, student information in PSIS is about eligibility for free or reduced lunch and not participation. If you have any questions, please contact [Michelle Rosado](#).

New Smarter Balanced Instructional Videos

[Smarter Annotated Response Tool](#)

⇒ This video walks the viewer through the SmART (Smarter Annotated Response Tool). It will showcase how writing tasks are scored and how educators can use SmART to support student writing. In this video, you will learn about the two parts of an English Language Arts/Literacy Performance Task.

[Using the Interim Assessment Item Portal](#)

⇒ This video demonstrates how educators can use the Interim Assessment Item Portal to search for interim assessment test questions to use in the classroom.

Special Populations Updates

Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Training for Teachers Administering the Alternate

The Connecticut Alternate Assessments are designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. Federal law (i.e., the Every Student Succeeds Act) expects that the total number of students tested with the alternate assessment will be no more than 1 percent of all students tested. The Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form documents the data that are required to confirm a student's eligibility and suitability to participate in the alternate assessment (i.e., intellectual impairment, adaptive behavior skills, and the fact that the student already receives extensive, repeated, individualized instruction and academic support across all academic and non-academic areas). The submission of the Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form registers the student for the Connecticut Alternate Assessments. Students who do not meet the criteria to take the Connecticut Alternate Assessments as indicated through the Alternate Eligibility Form should participate in the standard state assessments with all the requisite accommodations and designated supports as indicated throughout their IEP.

The required, annual, online Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Training is now available on the [Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal](#) for teachers who have the primary responsibility for assessing students in Grades 3 – 8 and 11 on the Connecticut Alternate Assessment System that includes the:

- Connecticut Alternate Assessments (CTAA) for Math and ELA (Grades 3-8 and 11)
- Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS) Assessment (Grades 5, 8, and 11)

Accessed from the portal, there are four training sessions that include topics related to student eligibility, the requirements and responsibilities of the TEA, an overview of the CTAA and CTAS, optimal testing conditions, test administration procedures, and updates to the Early Stopping Rule. An audio recording, closed captioning, and transcripts are available for each session. Sessions can be accessed as many times as needed.

Following the completion of the four training sessions, teachers must take and pass the quiz with a score of 80% or greater, to activate their trained status in TIDE.

It is highly recommended that training be completed in by mid-December 2022 to meet the deadlines for submitting the Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Eligibility Form into the Data Entry Interface (DEI). Sessions can be accessed as many times as needed. Please refer to the [Alternate Assessment webpage](#) on the Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal for more information.

Additional Resources Related to the Alternate Assessment System

- [Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Participation Guidance for Planning and Placement Teams](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions and Answers about the Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Eligibility Form](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions and Answers about the Connecticut Alternate Assessment System](#)
- [Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Training Required for Teachers Administering the Alternate Overview for TEAs](#)
- [Parent Overview of Connecticut's Alternate Assessment System](#)

Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Training: [Overview for District Administrators](#)

Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Training: [Overview for Teachers Administering the Alternate](#)

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Special Populations Updates

Alternate Assessment System Eligibility Form

Once teachers complete required training, they should be prepared to submit their student's Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Eligibility Form in the Data Entry Interface. Eligibility forms should be submitted through the DEI even if they were completed in a finalized IEP within CT-SEDS. The DEI opens on November 14, 2022, and will remain open until the end of the assessment window of June 2, 2023.

Given that assessments and test schedules vary by student eligibility and grade, it is important that eligibility forms are submitted by the submission deadlines to ensure the activation of the Alternate Assessment Indicator (a field on the student's TIDE dashboard). This indicator is used to identify those students who qualify for alternate versus standard assessments. Furthermore, data files are generated using this information for LAS Links and the Connecticut SAT School Day. This indicator also activates the online testing system and provides students with alternate assessments on the secure browser instead of the standard Smarter Balanced and NGSS assessments. Please share these deadlines with your Planning and Placement teams and Teachers Administering the Alternate assessments (TEAs).

Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Eligibility Form Submission Dates through the Data Entry Interface (DEI)	Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Eligibility Form Submission Phases
November 14, 2022 – December 23, 2022	Eligibility forms must be submitted into the DEI between November 14 – December 23, 2022 , for the following students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students in Grade 11 who qualify for the Alternate Assessment System • Students in Grades K-12 who are dually identified as an English learner/ multilingual learner (EL/ML) <u>and</u> receive services under IDEA who qualify for the CAAELP and/or CTAA/CTAS.
November 14, 2022 – March 1, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students in Grades 3-8 who qualify for the Alternate Assessment System • Any new student in Grade 11 or a newly identified EL/ML who qualifies for the CAAELP and/or CTAA/CTAS.
<p>*Late submissions will only be permitted for those students newly identified for eligibility. In this case, submissions after March 1, 2023, will require the TEA to contact the Connecticut Cambium Assessment Incorporated Help Desk at 844-202-7583 to activate the Alt Flag Indicator. If this does not occur, students will only have access to the standard assessments (Smarter Balanced and NGSS Assessments, the CT SAT School Day, and LAS Links.).</p>	

Special Populations Updates

What's New for Designated Supports and Accommodations for Smarter Balanced and NGSS?

In an effort to get a head start on providing students with the most appropriate tools and supports when participating on the optional Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments and spring summative assessments, refer to the updated [2022-23 Accessibility Chart](#) (see Figure 1). The Performance Office encourages teachers and test coordinators to plan early when determining the types of supports and accommodations their students may need. Refer to the accommodations section of the most recent 504 Plans and IEP Plan to ensure that appropriate supports and accommodations are identified. These supports can be entered in TIDE as early as November 14, 2022, but before the student begins spring testing.

Universal Tools:

- Available to ALL students:**
 - Embedded:** Breaks, Desmos Calculator (Math Grades 6-8; Science Grades 5, 8, & 11), Digital Notepad, English Glossary, Expanded Passages/Items, Highlighter, Keyboard Commands, Line Reader, Mark for Review, Math Tools, Skelthrough, Writing Tools, Zoom, NGSS Periodic Table (Grades 8 & 11) English.
 - Non-Embedded:** Breaks, Calculator (Science Grades 5, 8, & 11), Scratch Paper/whiteboard with marker, NGSS Periodic Table (Grades 8 & 11) English and Spanish.
- Designated Supports:**
 - Embedded (Available to ANY student with a need determined by educators):** Color Contrast, Masking, Mouse Pointer, Print Size Online, Spanish Presentation (Math) (Stacked), Spanish Presentation (Science) (Toggle), Streamline, Text-to-Speech-Science, Math & ELA Items (NOT ELA Reading Passages), Text-to-Speech-Spanish (Math, Science) (Updated), Translations (Science) (Math) (Includes Illustration Glossary as an available language support), Turn off any universal accessibility tool.
 - Non-Embedded:** Annotation, Bilingual Dictionary (Science), Color Contrast, Color Overlay, Zoom, Native Language Reader Directions (Science), Read Aloud, Read Aloud in Spanish (Math, Science), Separate Setting, Signified Test Directions, Translation Glossary (Math), Scratch Paper/whiteboard with marker, Native Reader of Test Directions, Native Language Reader Directions (Science).
- Accommodations:**
 - Embedded:** American Sign Language (Video), Braille Type, Braille Transcript (ELA Reading Passages), Closed Captioning (ELA Listening), Permissive Mode (compatible third party accessibility software), Refreshable Braille, Speech-to-Text, Text-to-Speech ELA Reading Passages (Grades 3-8), Text-to-Speech of the Smarter Balanced ELA Reading Passages.
 - Non-Embedded:** 100 Number Table (Grades 3-8), Abacus, Alternate Response Options, Braille Booklet (Only UEB/UEB Nemeth), Calculator (Math Grades 6-8), Customized Accommodations, Human Signer for ELA, Math, and/or Science Items, Human Signer for ELA Reading Passages (Grades 3-8), Large Print Booklet, Multiplication Table (Grades 3-8), Multiplication Table (Grades 3-8) (Print on Demand), Read Aloud ELA Reading Passages (Grades 3-8), Read Aloud ELA Reading Passages (Grades 3-8) (Complete the Documented Evidence for a Read Aloud of the Smarter Balanced ELA Reading Passages), Scale, Specialized Calculator (Braille/Talking Calculator) (Math Grades 6-8; Science Grades 5, 8, & 11).

Refer to the CSDE Assessment Guidelines for detailed information on universal tools, supports, and accommodations.

Additional Notes:

- # Requires Petition for Approval of Special Documented Accommodations unless the accommodation(s) and IEP are finalized in CT-SEDS prior to March 1, 2023.
- * NOT available for Science
- ** Requires Trained Educator
- *Suggested for English learners/multilingual learners (ELs/MLs)

Updated 8/22/22

For students who need additional accessibility supports, such as the use of reader, refer to the resources listed below. More information about accommodations will be forthcoming.

⇒ [Connecticut Smarter Balanced and NGSS Reader Options Table](#)

⇒ [Guidelines for Choosing Text-to-Speech vs. Read Aloud](#)

Performance Matters Forum
October 13, 2022
Connecticut Convention Center
Registration opened until October 5.
Conference program is available.



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Summative Assessment Calendar for 2022-23

Assessment	Dates
English Language Proficiency Assessment-LAS Links	January 3-March 3, 2023
CAAELP (Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency)	February 1-March 31, 2023
CT SAT School Day	March 22-24 and March 28-29, 2023; Additional make up dates: April 25-27, 2023
NGSS	February 6-June 3, 2023 (Grade 11) March 27-June 2, 2023 (Grades 5 and 8)
Connecticut Alternate Assessment—CTAA	March 27-June 2, 2023
Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment—CTAS (Administered throughout the year)	(Upload Window for Submission through the DEI: CTAS Student Score Worksheet) March 27-June 2, 2023 (Grades 5, 8, and 11)
Connecticut Smarter Balanced Assessments	March 27-June 2, 2023
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.

