



Student Assessment News

Connecticut State Department of Education • Performance Office

October 16, 2020

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

2020 – 21 Assessment and Accountability Guidance

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On October 15, 2020 the Performance Office sent [guidance](#) to districts regarding Assessment and Accountability for 2020-21. Please refer to this guidance as it pertains to the following state summative assessments for this school year.

- Connecticut SAT School Day
- Connecticut Smarter Balanced Assessments
- Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessments
- Connecticut Alternate Assessments (CTAA) for Mathematics and English Language Arts
- Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS) Assessments
- LAS Links English Language Proficiency Assessment
- Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment (CPFA)
- Kindergarten Inventory (KEI)

Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment Webinar

The Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment (CPFA) is Connecticut’s annual assessment of public school students’ physical well-being. On **October 28 at 11 a.m.** there will be a webinar that will provide updates on the Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment (CPFA) and best practices on administering the assessment for 2020-21. This webinar will provide the latest news from team members of the Performance Office at the CSDE on administration of the CPFA for 2020-21. In addition, the webinar will highlight some best practices from three district Supervisors of Health and Physical Education on how to administer the assessment during this challenging year. Tracy Stefano (East Hartford), Christine Wanner (Westport) and Joe Gorman (Waterbury) will provide some guidance and tips on administering the 2020-21 CPFA. Attendees [must register in advance](#).

Connecticut is featured in the Education Strategy Group and the Level Up Coalition in-depth report: *From Tails to Heads: Building Momentum for Postsecondary Success*. The report offers a framework for a new set of postsecondary transition metrics for states and communities to prioritize in order to help more students successfully move to and through higher education. Collectively, the **“Momentum Metrics”** identified in the report represent eight of the most predictive indicators of postsecondary preparation, retention, and success. They are designed to help educators and administrators target resources and supports at the individual student level as well as to inform broader conversations at the aggregate level about advising policies and programs.



Connecticut Alternate Assessment



Connecticut
Alternate
Science
Assessment



Connecticut SAT School Day



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SAT Updates

Fall 2020 SAT for Grade 12 Students

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has made arrangements with the College Board so Grade 12 students can take the SAT in fall 2020, either during a weekend or a school day administration at no cost to the student. The fall 2020 SAT weekend or school day would be an *optional* test for students. There are no state requirements for having students take this test and this is not a rescheduling of the Connecticut SAT School Day.

Test Coordinators for Connecticut schools that plan to use the SAT Weekend testing option should contact [Michelle Rosado](#) for student codes. Please provide the number of codes you require for your students. Students should not register for the SAT until they receive the code from their school. If they register for the SAT before receiving a code, they will be asked for payment information.

Spring 2021 CT SAT School Day for Grade 11 Students

A webinar has been scheduled to give coordinators updates on the 2021 Connecticut SAT School Day, as well as an overview of the redesigned College Board SSD website which is used to enter accommodations for students who are eligible. There are two sessions available to choose from. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email from SDE GoTo containing information about joining the webinar.

Register for CT SAT School Day Spring 2021 Updates on **Nov 5, 2020, 2:00-3:00 p.m.** at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2782327778379520015>

OR

Register for CT SAT School Day Spring 2021 Updates on **Nov 12, 2020, 3:00-4:00 p.m.** at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2342327414199391503>

Unlike the fall SAT, schools do **NOT** need to order any test materials for students for the Connecticut SAT School Day. Test materials, including student labels, will automatically be sent to each Test Coordinator prior to the March 24, 2021, or April 13, 2021, test. Quantities of materials will be based on enrollments in the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Public School Information System (PSIS) Registration Module, as well as special materials for students approved for accommodations through the College Board's SSD system.

Please contact [Michelle Rosado](#) if you have any questions.

Are your high school seniors signed up to for the [College Board Opportunity Scholarships](#)? This program is open to students regardless of their family income. More information is available on the [College Board's Opportunity Scholarship web site](#).

Nominate a school counselor!

The College Board is accepting nominations for the [2020-21 Counselor Recognition Program](#). **Applications are due by October 23, 2020.**

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Sensible Assessment Resources and Support

The CSDE developed three documents to support educators during the reopening and closing of schools: *Sensible Assessment Practices*; *Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together*; and *Plan for Re-imagining Connecticut Classrooms for Continuous Learning*. In the Sensible Assessment Practices Webinar Series, we provided short, focused video presentations to reinforce and supplement the information in the documents. Now we are providing a new, interactive site on Sparks for [Sensible Assessment Resources and Support](#) to provide detailed information and interactive resources to support teachers and administrators educating students in-person or remotely in the 2020-21 school year. This new format is a fluid one that will change and grow with new information and resources, or new recommendations as the needs of our constituents change.

This new site has content in topic-specific sections that can be accessed by clicking on the underlined, hyperlinked words within the site. The sections currently available are [Gathering Data](#), [Incorporating Social-Emotional Learning](#), [Engaging Families](#), [Building a Community in the Classroom](#), [Creating Interactive and Inclusive Lessons](#), [Modeling a Grade 5 Unit](#), and [Assessment and Instruction](#).

Within each section are videos and resources. All documents, references, and videos are either included for immediate accessibility or hyperlinked. Our intent is to lessen the burden on teachers, and we hope you will use these suggestions and resources to facilitate meaningful and intentional planning and delivery of instruction for in-person and remote learning in the year ahead.

Advanced Placement Updates

For 2021 Advanced Placement® (AP) testing, AP coordinators must order tests for students by **November 13, 2020**. All students who currently plan to take AP Exams should register now so you can include them in your school's exam order by November 13. Because the \$40 per exam late order fee still applies this year, it's better for students to be registered on time and cancel later, rather than order after the deadline. Schools won't be charged any fee for exams that are canceled or indicated as unused.

The CSDE and College Board will cover the entire cost of the 2021 AP exam fees for all students from low-income families who attend public school in Connecticut. The AP coordinators will indicate in the [APRO](#) site a student's low income status.

Please visit the [College Board's AP Central](#) for more information.

Tools for Teachers Launched

Smarter Balanced has officially launched Tools for Teachers! Created by educators, this easy-to-use site features lessons and strategies to enhance instruction, save time in lesson planning, and boost student learning. Tools for Teachers provides a variety of resources including lessons, student performance progressions, instructional strategies, and links to interim assessment items. These tools can be easily adapted for [remote teaching and distance learning](#). Please see the [Tools for Teachers Overview](#) and [Video](#) for more information and check out the [resources on Pinterest](#)! Visit [SmarterToolsForTeachers.org](#) to get started.



Special Populations Updates

2020-21 Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Training—Required for Teachers Administering the Alternate (TEAs)

The Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Training—Required for Teachers Administering the Alternate (TEAs) for the 2020-2021 school year is now available. The training course link, along with all other relevant training resources, can be found here: <https://ct.portal.cambiumast.com/resources/alt-assessment-system-training-materials/>. This course is annually required for any educator responsible for administering any alternate assessment.

2020-21 CSDE Assessment Guidelines

The [CSDE Assessment Guidelines](#) for 2020-21 is available. This document provides guidance about testing special student populations on Connecticut statewide assessments.

Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments: Guidance for Entering Designated Supports and Accommodations

Given that the optional 2020-21 Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs) and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) IABs are available for administration, there are some considerations that impact the selection of accommodations prior to testing. Because the selection of accommodations in TIDE is dependent on a student's special education and 504 status in PSIS, accommodations will not be selectable in TIDE until the PSIS student batch upload occurs on November 12, 2020. If your school or district expects to administer an IAB before then, accommodations will need to be entered manually in the Test Administration (TA) Interface at the time of testing.

Designated Supports can be entered directly into TIDE by the District Administrator (DA) or School Test Coordinator (SC) either manually or via the upload process. These supports will be immediately visible to the test administrator in the TA Interface and will be immediately available to the student for use while taking the IAB. Once a Designated Support is set in TIDE, this setting will persist unless modified. While Designated Supports are persistent in TIDE over time, **accommodations** (both Embedded and Non-Embedded) should be entered manually by the test administrator using the TA Interface prior to the approval/administration of an Interim Assessment Block. Note: The Test Administrator will need to set accommodations for each applicable student every time an IAB is administered. After the PSIS upload on November 12, 2020, accommodations can be set in TIDE for students with the activated IDEA or 504 Indicator.

For more information, please refer to these brochures:

[Manually Entering Designated Supports and Accommodations](#): This brochure describes considerations that impact the selection of accommodations prior to test administration.

[Managing Student Test Settings in TIDE](#): This brochure provides a brief overview on how to manage student test settings in TIDE. Students' embedded accommodations, non-embedded accommodations, and designated supports must be set in TIDE prior to test administration for these settings to be reflected in the Test Delivery System.

[Using Smarter Balanced and Next Generation Science Standards \(NGSS\) Interim Assessments Remotely Considerations for Non-Embedded Universal Tools, Designated Supports, and Accommodations](#): This document provides considerations for students who may need the provision of external materials to access the optional Interim Assessments remotely during distance learning. There are three categories of supports available during testing: universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations.

Special Populations Updates

Confirming the ELAC for the 2020-21 School Year

The CSDE recently launched **Contacts Manager**, a new Directory Management Portal application to streamline the collection of contact information for agency work. On September 28, 2020, the CSDE added the collection of the English Learner Assessment Coordinator (ELAC) to the application. Each district must now designate one staff member for this role. (This role is not applicable for Approved Private Special Education Programs.) The ELAC is the one individual representing the district who will be responsible for ensuring that the English Language Proficiency (ELP) Assessment, the LAS Links, is administered appropriately to all identified English learners in Grades K-12. This individual also manages the English learner identification process, attends the annual ELAC training, and disseminates information provided by the CSDE to appropriate staff. The ELAC also supports colleagues in matters related to English learners and summative assessments. Please contact your district LEA Security Manager or Contacts Manager Writer as they can assist adding the role in the new application. For questions, contact Abe.Krisst@ct.gov.

Identification of English Learners and the PSIS October 1, 2020 Collection

Normally, as required by ESSA, when a potential English learner (EL) enters a school/district at the beginning of the school year, the student must be screened within 30 days. Subsequently, these new identified students must be reported in the Public School Information System (PSIS) as an English learner by October 1, of each school year. However, considering the current challenges facing schools in determining eligibility for new potential English learners due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the CSDE is extending the deadline for entering the eligibility determination into PSIS until October 30, for this year only. Students identified as English learners through October 30, should be reported as an EL in the October 2020 PSIS collection.

LAS Links and EL Reports on EdSight

Results from the 2019-20 English Language Proficiency Assessment (LAS Links) are posted on EdSight Public. Authorized users can also access the student-level results through EdSight Secure. While results are publicly reported, there are no formal accountability implications given the federal waiver of 2019-20 accountability requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There are three reports available: achievement, mastery, and growth. The [LAS Links Achievement report](#) describes how English learners performed on the LAS Links in a given year on all domains (the listening, speaking, reading and writing subtests and the composites of oral, literacy, comprehension, productive and overall). The [LAS Links Participation/Mastery report](#) shows the number and percentage of students who met the CSDE's English mastery standard. The [LAS Links growth report](#) shows the number/percentage of students of matched students achieving academic growth from one grade to the next based on the LAS Links growth model. Individual student-level data is available to users with the appropriate permissions in EdSight Secure. Once a student is registered to a district/school the student is visible in the EdSight Secure system. Two reports that are most helpful for confirming EL status and supporting English learners include the LAS Links Report and the Student Summary. The LAS Links report provides performance scores in the LAS Links domains and the overall score for each year the student participated in the LAS Links. Remember students who did not participate in the LAS Links will not appear in the LAS Links report. Reasons for non-participation may include the student would have participated in an Alternate Assessment, the student may have transferred out of state, or others.

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English Learner Resources

[DRC Insight Portal](#) - This portal is available to individuals registered with a username and password. The English Learner Assessment Coordinator assigns permissions for various secure functions. The LAS Links Test Administration is one of the applications within this portal. Other applications in the INSIGHT portal include, Test Management, Student Groups, Student management, User Management, General Information, Interactive reporting, On demand reports, and Testing Status.

[2020 - 21 Connecticut Digital Library](#) - The Connecticut Digital Library provides non-secure Connecticut specific resources grouped by topic. Topics Include, remote screening guidance, assessment administration training and guidance, technology installation guidance, and support for instruction.

LAS Links Remote Screener Test Administration Guidance and Materials

The CSDE expects districts to follow, to the extent possible, the previous guidance regarding the identification of English learners in Connecticut public schools for the 2020-21 school year. This is described in the memorandum, [English Learner Identification and Obtaining Identification Materials for 2020-21](#) provided on May 29, 2020. However, CSDE is now providing additional guidance for reference if a district chooses to facilitate the screening process using the LAS Links Placement test or the preLAS for Kindergarten (or PK 4) students in a remote manner. The following guidance documents are available for your reference and use:

[CSDE/DRC preLAS Remote Test Administration Instructions](#)

[CSDE/DRC LAS Links Placement Test Remote Test Administration Instructions](#)

[Web Conferencing Options for Remote](#)

[Testing Parent/Student Remote Testing Agreement](#)

[Parent/Guardian Remote Testing Checklist for the LAS Links Placement Test and preLAS](#)

Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form Deadlines

Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form Submission Deadlines through the Data Entry Interface (DEI)	Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form Student Subgroup
November 12, 2020-January 15, 2021	Eligible students in Grade 11; and Dually identified (English learner and Special Education) students Grades 3-8 and 11
November 12, 2020-February 15, 2021	Eligible students in Grades 3-8; and Extended deadline for newly eligible Grade 11 students

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EL Webinar

A webinar will be held on **October 23, 2020, from 9-10:30 AM** on **Addressing the Needs of Dually Identified Students through IEPs and Instructional Supports**. This webinar will share current data specific to students identified as English learners, and discussion from a representative panel of Connecticut educators to share their experiences. Topics will include communicating with staff about student needs, engaging parents, identification of English learners, representation at PPTs, use of EdSight and more. [You must register in advance](#). Please access this link to register <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/8222768487176647436>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Early Indication Tool (EIT) for Teachers – New Resource in EdSight Secure

The *Early Indication Tool (EIT)* is an [EdSight Secure](#) report that can support timely student interventions by district/school staff. The *EIT for Teachers* is a new EdSight Secure report that provides historical student-level data and EIT support levels for incoming students. The report also includes estimated student scale scores for the 2019-20 Smarter Balanced Assessments and corresponding growth targets for the 2020-21 year. The ultimate goal of this report is to facilitate sharing of these data with teachers in order to decrease the amount of time spent on formal assessment in accordance with the [Sensible Assessment Practices](#) guidance. District data coordinators can use school roster information and the linked *EIT for Teachers* [Data Lookup Tool \(instructions\)](#) to generate custom reports for any of a teacher's rosters of students. Check out the resources section of this report for the [EIT for Teachers FAQ](#), the [EIT for Teachers Glossary and Data Definitions](#), and the [EIT for Teachers Smarter Balanced Estimate Methods and Rationale](#). Please email any questions to edsight.sde@ct.gov.

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Update

On August 26, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) informed states of plans to proceed with a reduced administration of the congressionally mandated NAEP Assessments of



mathematics and reading at Grades 4 and 8 during the 2020-2021 school year. NCES will sample approximately half the typical number of schools for the state-level NAEP Assessments. The NAEP 2021 Assessments will occur between January 25, and March 19, 2021, in sampled schools that are providing on-site instruction to students. NAEP will not administer assessments to students who are participating in remote learning exclusively. Since it is unclear whether students will be attending school in-person between January and March, NCES requests that selected districts and schools begin planning for NAEP as if it will occur. The CSDE will notify selected districts and schools by early October. If you have questions, please contact Connecticut's NAEP State Coordinator, Renee Savoie, at renee.savoie@ct.gov.

Check out the blog [Rethinking Accountability for 2020-21](#) on the Center for Assessment web site. <https://www.nciea.org/blog/rethinking-school-accountability-2020-2021-school-year>

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Summative Assessment Calendar for 2020-21

Assessment	Dates
The AIR secure browsers for the 2020-21 school year must be downloaded for all 2020-21 online tests.	Available for download https://ct.portal.cambiumast.com/secure-browsers.stml
LAS Links	January 4, 2021–March 5, 2021
Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form Deadlines	January 15, 2021—students in Grade 11 and dually identified students in Grades 3-8 and 11; and February 15, 2021—students in Grades 3-8 and newly identified Grade 11 students
NGSS Assessment	February 1–June 4, 2021 (Grade 11) March 29–June 4, 2021 (Grades 5 and 8)
Connecticut Alternate Assessment - CTAA	March 29–June 4, 2021
Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment - CTAS (Administered throughout the year)	(Upload Window for Submission through the DEI) March 29–June 4, 2021 (Grades 5, 8, and 11)
Connecticut Smarter Balanced	March 29–June 4, 2021
Connecticut SAT School Day	Primary Test Dates: March 24, 2021, OR April 13, 2021 (Based on school selection) Makeup Dates: April 27 and/or 28, 2021

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.

