Student Assessment News

Connecticut State Department of Education • Performance Office

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CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov

2021 Performance Matters Forum

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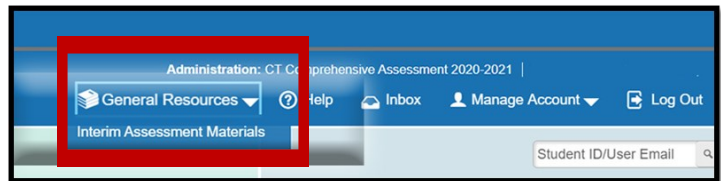PSIS and State Summative Assessments

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COVID Resources for Educators and Families

The 2021 Performance Matters Forum is a **half-day, in-person conference** that will be held on **December 8, 2021,** at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. The same sessions will be offered in the morning and afternoon. Attendees should register for either the AM Conference **or** the PM Conference. Every session at this year's conference will feature "curated roundtable discussions" on a wide range of topics such as assessment, college and career readiness, student engagement, social emotional learning and supports, special education, and English learners. Details are available on the PMF webpage. Please note that Convention Center Garage Parking will be validated at registration and attendees are required to wear masks at the forum. The Convention Center's COVID-19 protocols are available.

NGSS and Smarter Balanced Interim Answer Keys Available

Smarter Balanced ELA and Mathematics Interim Assessment Answer Keys and Scoring Guides are available in TIDE, the Centralized Reporting System, or

the Interim Assessment Item Portal in Tools for Teachers. Directions for using this simple feature can be found in Creating an Answer Key Document Using the Interim Assessment Item Portal (IAIP). The NGSS Interim Answer Keys are available in TIDE as well, and item responses are provided in the Assessment Viewing Application and the Centralized Reporting System.

NGSS Interim Assessment Refresh

The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Interim Assessments aligned to the NGSS Standards will be undergoing a refresh in January 2022. The refresh will add items not currently on the NGSS interims, including shorter stand-alone items and item clusters, as well as improve or replace items with any inconsistencies. Another feature to be added will be scoring rubrics that will make it easier for educators to understand how the item interactions are being scored. Further information about the NGSS Interim Assessments can be found on the Connecticut Interim Assessment Webpage and information on the refresh will be made available as more details are known. Contact Jeff Greig if you have questions.

CTAA
Connecticut Alternate Assessment

Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment

Smarter Balanced
Assessment Consortium

CONNECTICUT NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE ASSESSMENT

Connecticut SAT School Day

CT SAT School Day Updates

2022 Connecticut SAT School Day Digital Testing Webinar Series

One webinar remains in the series of four webinars. All sessions are from 1:00-2:00 PM. Attendees must register for the entire series. Webinars will be recorded and posted to the CSDE's CT SAT School Day web page. More information about College Board's Digital Testing can be found on their web site. Please direct any questions to Michelle Rosado, CSDE, at michelle.rosado@ct.gov.

Previous Webinars:

- **College Board's Digital Testing Systems—slides and recording**

- **Accommodations and College Board's Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) - slides and recording**

- **Technology Webinar**

Upcoming Webinar:

Entering Accommodations into the TIDE System for Digital Testing

December 6, 2021, at 1pm

> Audience – SSD Coordinators and Test Coordinators (and any other staff)

> Overview of the process for entering approved accommodations in the College Board's TIDE System in preparation for digital testing

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Are students allowed to use a traditional calculator on the CT SAT School Day?

Students can use either a College Board approved calculator or the embedded Desmos calculator on the math section with calculator. Refer to College Board's SAT calculator policy and Desmos Calculator information.

Lexile and Quantile Resources for Educators and Parents

MetaMetrics recently provided introductory information for families on how they can utilize Lexile® & Quantile® measures to reinforce learning. This short recording is designed to provide foundational information about the measures themselves and share information about the free tools and resources available. Please feel free to share these recordings with others. An overview of the Lexile and Quantile Measures and related resources can be found on our Lexile and Quantile Measures in Connecticut web page.

Additionally, staff at MetaMetrics--creators of these measures--are making themselves available for questions and answers during their Office Hours.

A recording of Family Engagement in Reading and Math (20 minutes) is available.

Lexile and Quantile Office Hours Information:

Each **Monday**: 3:00PM--5:00PM [Join with this Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j/95027749445]

Each **Friday**: 11:00AM--1:00PM [Join with this Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j/92206409606]

Please join at your convenience as these are designed to be "come and go" events.

PSIS and State Summative Assessments

The Public School Information System (PSIS) provides data to test delivery systems for state summative assessments administered to Connecticut public school students. These assessments include the LAS Links, Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), Smarter Balanced, Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) in English language arts and mathematics, Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS), and the Connecticut SAT School Day. **District PSIS Coordinators must work closely with Testing Coordinators, English Language Assessment Coordinators (ELACs), and SAT Test Coordinators to ensure that student information is being reported accurately.** The state relies on districts to provide accurate reporting of PSIS student-level data. Select fields such as English Learner status, Special Education status, and Section 504 status must be updated prior to testing to ensure students eligible for accommodations may access them. Data are used for public/secure reporting of statewide test results and as part of Connecticut's Next Generation Accountability System.

The PSIS Registration module has been updated to include the following Testing Demographic fields:

- Special Education (SPED) Status,
- Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) Status,
- English Learner (EL) Status,
- Military Family,
- Homeless,
- Recently Arrived EL, and
- Section 504 Status.

These seven values must reflect the student's status at the time of testing for the 2021-22 school year. The SPED, FRL, EL, Military Family, and Homeless have been loaded with the values reported in the October PSIS Collection Freeze Zero file (i.e., freeze file from the collection generated on November 5, 2021). The values for Recently Arrived EL and Section 504 were not pulled from Freeze Zero because these data are not reported in the PSIS October collection. These values have been set to "No" in the Registration Module and must be updated in the PSIS Registration Module for testing and reporting purposes.

Please note, that if the status of any the first five fields changed from the value reported in the October PSIS Collection Freeze Zero, or if the student being tested was not in the PSIS October Collection Freeze Zero, the District PSIS Coordinator must update the student's record in the PSIS Registration Module. Changes to the Testing Demographic data can be made via the "Edit Registration/ Unregister" page in the PSIS Registration Module or by batch. The Testing Demographics Record Layout for batch uploads can be found in the PSIS Reference Guide located on the PSIS help site.

District PSIS Coordinators must make all changes to student enrollment and demographic information directly into the PSIS Registration Module. Student demographic values will be saved and the fields will be locked in PSIS on **June 3, 2022** (i.e., the last day of the summative testing window), so all changes to a student's status at the time of testing must be made by then. For LAS Links accountability calculations, **a freeze of the fields will be taken on March 4, 2022,** which is the **final date of the LAS Links testing.**

The Missing Connecticut Testing Demographic Status Values report is available in PSIS Registration Module, and the Active Roster download has been updated to include the Testing Demographic values. Data from the PSIS Registration Module are updated on a nightly basis in both the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) and DRC's INSIGHT System. **Again, these seven fields in the PSIS Registration Module must reflect the student's status at the time of testing**.

To enter accommodations in TIDE, students must be identified as Special Education or Section 504 in the PSIS Registration Module. Similarly, for a student to access a LAS Links assessment in the DRC Insight system, a student must be identified as an English learner in the PSIS Registration Module. Additionally, a student may be identified as both an English learner and a student with disabilities, and should be reflected as such in the PSIS testing demographic fields prior to the opening of the LAS Links testing window, January 3, 2022.

Special Populations Updates

2021-22 Connecticut Assessment Guidelines

The 2021-22 Assessment Guidelines is the educator's "Go-To" for all things related to universal tools, embedded and non-embedded designated supports and accommodations for Connecticut's Assessment System (Smarter Balanced Assessments, the NGSS, the Connecticut SAT School Day, and the Connecticut Alternate Assessment System). While the Accessibility Chart for Smarter Balanced/NGSS and the Connecticut SAT School Day provides a list of these tools and accommodations, the Assessment Guidelines explains these supports in greater detail. It also explains the process for requesting a Medical Exemption or Special Documented Accommodations.

Change to the Submission Process for the Decision Guidelines for Text-to-Speech of the Smarter Balanced ELA Reading Passages

Effective on November 12, 2021, the submission link to the Decision Guidelines for Text-to-Speech of the Smarter Balanced ELA Reading Passages was deactivated and this data will no longer be reported to the Connecticut State Department of Education. However, the Decision Guidelines for Text-to-Speech remains a critical document intended to be completed at the Planning and Placement Team or 504 Planning meetings to determine eligibility for certain students with a visual or print disability using this accommodation during instruction. The form should be used locally and maintained with the student's record. Given the change to the submission process, the Decision Guidelines and associated resources have been updated on the portal to capture the revised procedures.

Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form

The Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form is used by the PPT to determine eligibility for Connecticut's Alternate Assessment System. Eligibility requires that students meet three important criteria:

- Evidence of an intellectual impairment based on standardized, cognitive assessments/scores, or in the absence of standardized cognitive assessment data, other information that substantiates the presence of an intellectual impairment.
- Results of adaptive behavior assessment(s) (e.g., scored more than 1.5 standard deviations below average).
- Student requires intensive instruction and significant supports.

Once approved, eligibility forms are submitted into the DEI by the TEA to register the student to participate in the Alternate Assessments. The submission window for the DEI is November 19, 2021—June 3, 2022.

The Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Training—Required for Teachers Administering the Alternate (TEAs) for the 2021-2022 school year is available. The training course link, along with all other relevant training resources, can be found on the Alternate Assessment webpage located on the Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal.

The **Smarter Balanced Ecosystem Course** is a self-paced course available at no cost to Connecticut educators. It gives educators the opportunity to learn about the Smarter Balanced system of tools and resources. The course includes videos, annotated note-taking guides, and even a scavenger hunt that challenges the user to find specific professional learning resources in the Tools for Teachers website. The course takes about two hours to complete. Participants will receive a certificate of completion after successfully passing the embedded quizzes. Visit the Smarter Balanced Training Website to register using your school email address. If you have any questions, please contact Cristi Alberino.

Summative Assessment Calendar for 2021-22

Assessment	Dates
CT SAT Accommodations Window	November 29, 2021-February 2, 2022 - Students with IEP and 504 Plan
LAS Links	January 3-March 4, 2022
NGSS	February 7-June 3, 2022 (Grade 11) March 28-June 3, 2022 (Grades 5 and 8)
Connecticut SAT School Day	March 23-25 and 29-30, 2022 Make-up Window: April 26-28, 2022
Connecticut Alternate Assessment—CTAA	March 28-June 3, 2022
Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment—CTAS (Administered throughout the year)	(Upload Window for Submission through the Data Entry Interface (DEI)) March 28-June 3, 2022 (Grades 5, 8, and 11)
Connecticut Smarter Balanced Assessments	March 28-June 3, 2022

Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form	
Submission Dates Through the Data Entry Interface (DEI)	Student Subgroup
November 19– December 22, 2021	Eligible students in Grade 11; Dually identified students (special education and EL) in Grades 3-8 and 11.
November 19, 2021 –March 1 , 2022	Eligible students in Grades 3-8; Extended deadline for newly eligible Grade 11 students
June 3, 2022	DEI closes for the spring 2021 assessment window.

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

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