Student Assessment News

Connecticut State Department of Education • Performance Office

December 22, 2021

Use the quick links below to access articles and/or sections included in this newsletter.

COVID Resources for Educators and Families

Summative Assessment Training Sessions

The CSDE Performance Office will be delivering virtual training on the spring 2022 administrations of Smarter Balanced, NGSS Assessments, CTAA, and CTAS. There will be virtual sessions on **General Test Administration Policies** and **Special Populations**. District Administrators (DA's in TIDE) are highly encouraged to attend both sessions, while other district personnel are also welcome at the sessions. Below are session descriptions and session times. Registration can be completed using the CSDE calendar.

- **District Administrator Special Populations Training**: This session will provide important information related to test administration, designated supports, accommodations, and assessment requirements for general education students, students with disabilities, and students identified as English learners. Details related to the Special Documented Accommodation procedures, medical exemptions, and the Connecticut Alternate Assessment System (CTAA and CTAS) will also be discussed. Please note that participants in this session should also plan on attending one of the 2021-22 District Administrator General Summative Test Administration sessions planned for January 19, 20, or 21, 2022.

- **District Administrator General Summative Test Administration**: This session will review important procedures, policies, and administration requirements for the Smarter Balanced, NGSS, CTAA, and CTAS assessments. Please note that participants in this session should also plan on attending one of the 2021-22 **District Administrator Special Populations Training** sessions planned for January 20 or January 21, 2022.

	January 19	January 20	January 21
Special Populations	NA	9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	12 – 1:00 p.m.
General Summative Test Administration	9:00 – 10:30 a.m.	12 – 1:30 p.m.	9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

The CSDE's Performance Office is evaluating the value of the **Lexile® and Quantile® Measures** reported out with the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment results in Connecticut as a tool for educators and administrators. These measures are reported out on the *Individual Student Reports* and in the *Centralized Reporting System*. To better understand the degree to which educators are using these measures to inform or support their teaching in Connecticut, please take a few minutes to complete this survey. You are welcome and encouraged to share this survey with your colleagues. Please complete the survey by January 28, 2022.

CTAA Connecticut Alternate Assessment — Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment — **Smarter Balanced** Assessment Consortium — CONNECTICUT NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE ASSESSMENT — **Connecticut SAT School Day**

Special Population Updates

CT SAT School Day Accommodations

Students with Disabilities (SSD) coordinators can submit accommodations for students who have an active Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan using the College Board Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) online through February 2, 2022. If accommodations were already submitted and approved, nothing further needs to be done at this time. Details will be forthcoming regarding the activation of test settings in TIDE to prepare for digital test administration this school year.

If you missed the Connecticut SAT School Day Accommodation and College SSD webinar, a PDF of the Power Point and a link to the recorded webinar is available on the Connecticut SAT School Day webpage. If you're new to SSD online, check out these valuable resources: SSD Module Understanding College Board Accommodations and the College Board Supports and Accommodation Handbook (also available on the webpage). Please contact Deirdre Ducharme or the College Board SAT School Day Customer Support: 855-373-6387; SATSchoolDaySupport@collegeboard.org if you have any questions.

Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) for Smarter Balanced and NGSS

The TIDE system is now accepting the entry and/or batch upload of designated supports and accommodations for interim and summative assessments. A CSV or Excel template is available for download in TIDE for those using the batch upload process. As a reminder, accommodations can only be submitted for those students who have the IDEA or Section 504 Indicator recorded in the Public School Information System (PSIS). For more information, refer to the TIDE User Guide.

Smarter Balanced Math Item Review or Math Achievement Level Descriptor Review

Are you a Connecticut public school **math educator or specialist** who teaches or has experience with teaching in grades 3-8? Smarter Balanced is once again seeking educators to participate in a virtual Math Educator Committee Item Review or Math Achievement Level Descriptor review on January 31- February 4, 2022.

This event will be structured as follows:

Pre-training activity (optional)	prior to January 31	½ day
Virtual ALD Workshop	January 31 - February 2	3 days
Virtual Item Review	February 3 & 4	2 days

The workdays will begin at 12:00 pm and will not exceed six hours. They will include a half-hour dinner and breaks. This will be an all-day (6-hour) each day event, and there will be no asynchronous work.

If you are available to participate, please complete the online application:

https://smarterbalancedassessment.wufoo.com/forms/zpj6bf914r3ysj/

Those selected to participate will be contacted directly by Smarter Balanced.

Special Populations Updates

Alternate Assessment Reminders

√ Make sure all teachers expecting to administer the Connecticut Alternate Assessments have a TEA user role in TIDE. Refer to this Overview for District Administrators for details.

√ Remind your TEAs to complete the required online training. Once TEAs take and pass the quiz, trained status will be indicated on their TIDE user dashboard.

√ The Data Entry Interface is open and trained TEAs can submit the student's Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form. Please note the key deadlines: December 22, 2021 – eligible students in Grade 11; eligible students who are dually identified (English learner and Special Education) and March 1, 2022 –eligible students in Grades 3-8; eligible students in Grade 11 who are newly identified.

√ TEAs can begin administration of the Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment (CTAS) to eligible students in Grades 5, 8, and 11. While hardcopy materials are available at the district level and can be shared among staff, CTAS Required Materials can be accessed on the portal for printing. Refer to the CTAS Responsibility Checklist for suggested steps regarding test administration.

Critical Dates for the LAS Links 2022 Administration

LAS Links test window **January 3- March 4, 2022**

Test Session scheduling in DRC INSIGHT Portal open for ELACs	December 6, 2021
Accommodations open in DRC INSIGHT Portal for ELACs	December 6, 2021-March 4, 2022
Alternate Assessment Eligibility and Domain Exemption Registration	November 19, 2021-December 22, 2021
Accommodated/Paper Form Order Submission By December 17, 2021, for January 6, 2022, delivery By January 7 for January 15, 2022, delivery	December 17, 2021 or January 7, 2022
Final date to request completed District Accommodated/Paper Form UPS Pick-up to send to DRC for processing	February 18, 2022

Connecticut DRC LAS Links Website

New Postings to the Connecticut DRC LAS Links Website include:
* The LAS Links Test Administration Manual and Online Test Directions
* The LAS Links Form E Operational Field Test Flyer (December revision)
* The LAS Links Form E/F Read Aloud Chart with No Accommodations
* The 2021-22 CSDE LAS Links ELAC Training
* 2022 LAS Links Accommodated/Paper Materials Order Form
* Domain Exemption Form
* English Learners with Significant Cognitive Disabilities Potentially Eligible for an Alternate Assessment Form (Grades K-2, 9, 10, 12)
* Test Sessions and Optional Test Monitoring Application
* 2021-22 IT Training Webinar

Special Populations Updates

Supporting Dually identified Students

ELs in Grades 3-8 and 11:
- Participate in the LAS Links and grade appropriate academic assessments.
- ELACs enter LAS Links accommodations in the DRC InSight Portal.
- Those students whose PPT determines they are eligible for the Alternate Assessment System do not participate in the LAS Links for the 2021-22 school year.
- A CSDE Trained Teacher Administering the Alternate Assessment (TEA) submits the Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form via the DEI between November 19 and December 22, 2021.

ELs in Grades K-2, 9, 10, and 12:

- Whose PPT uses the Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form as a reference and determines if the student meets the alternate assessment eligibility criteria does not participate in the LAS Links for the 2021-22 school year.
- CSDE must be informed by the ELAC between November 19 and December 22, 2021, using the English Learners with Significant Cognitive Disabilities Potentially Eligible for Alternate Assessments – 2021-22 form.

Accommodated/Paper Forms

- Identified English Learners with and IEP or Section 504 Plans requiring Accommodated/Paper Forms must submit the LAS Links Accommodated/Paper Materials Order Form **before January 7, 2022.**
- Reminder **The final date** to request UPS Pick-up of completed test for processing is **February 18, 2022.** This shortens the test window for these students, so order early and schedule testing early.

Fund for Teachers is a foundation that awards summer fellowship grants to pre-K -12 public school teachers to pursue self-designed professional learning. At no costs to districts, this professional learning opportunity can take educators across the country and all over the world – as scientists, researchers, artists, and agents of change – returning to their classrooms with new ideas that transform student learning and achievement. All applicants must apply online by 6 p.m. on **January 20, 2022**. To learn more about the Fund for Teachers and to access the application, visit Fund For Teachers: Investing in prek-12 teachers' professional development. For additional questions and/or to arrange for a faculty information presentation, please reach out to Dale Bernardoni, CT managing director for Fund for Teachers.

The CSDE is launching the new **CT-SEDS** on July 1, 2022. This system will be provided to school districts at no cost and will house our new and improved individualized education program (IEP), as well as all required special education data components designed to reduce reporting requirements at the local level. The system will also provide a Section 504 Solution. A comprehensive list of the components/modules contained within the system can be found in the first section of our FAQ Volume 2 document. Questions may be submitted using the following link: CT-SEDS Questions.

Summative Assessment Calendar for 2021-22

Assessment	Dates
CT SAT Accommodations Window	November 29, 2021-February 2, 2022 - Students with IEP and 504 Plan January– February 2022– EL students with Time and One Half
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 (Digital Administration)	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 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.

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.

The Connecticut State Department of Education is an affirmative action/equal employment opportunity employer.

5