



Student Assessment News

Connecticut State Department of Education • Performance Office

August 2023

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

2023 State Summative Assessment Results on EdSight

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

Page 2
[District Contact Information and User Accounts](#)

[TIDE Updates](#)

Page 3
[Special Populations Updates](#)

Page 4
[CT-SEDS](#)

[Interim Assessments](#)

[CT SAT School Day Updates](#)

Page 5
[The Pets of Performance](#)

Page 6
[Summative Assessment Calendar for 2023-24](#)

On August 28, 2023, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) released chronic absenteeism data from 2022-23, along with results from the spring 2023 state assessments. The data show that for the first time since the pandemic, attendance improved, and chronic absenteeism rates declined from 23.7 percent in 2021-22 to 20.0 percent in 2022-23 resulting in approximately 18,000 more students attending school regularly in 2022-23. Improvements were evidenced in all grades and in all student groups.

Please see the [Connecticut Sees Improvement in Attendance, and Math and Science Scores](#) Press Release for a full report on 2023 assessments.

2023 Individual Student Reports (including PDFs) for Summative Assessments

The CSDE and Cambium Assessment Incorporated will begin sending Individual Student Reports (ISRs) on paper for the following assessments: Smarter Balanced, the Next Generation Science Standards, the Connecticut Alternate Assessment for math and English language arts, and the Connecticut Alternate Science in the next few weeks. As an added support this year, DAs in TIDE will have access to PDF files posted to the TIDE Secure File Center (formerly the Secure Inbox) containing the Individual Student Reports for each of the assessments. Please contact the Help Desk at 844-202-7583 with any questions.

The Performance Office extends a warm welcome to our new and returning school administrators and educators, including those who will support the statewide testing program! We hope you had a restful and enjoyable summer and wish you a safe, productive, and fulfilling school year ahead. We are here to answer any questions you have and provide the resources you need throughout the school year. Please reach out to our staff anytime by phone or email.

New Performance Office Assessment Team Members

The Performance Office has welcomed several new members. A full list of staff and contact information are available on [our website](#). New staff providing support for state assessments are Katherine Seifert, special populations and Kimberly Johnson, testing support.



Student Assessment News: August 2023

District Contact Information and User Accounts

The Performance Office is reaching out to each district to confirm contact information for critical roles. The roles of District Administrator for Testing in TIDE (DA) and the English Learner Assessment Coordinator (ELAC) are roles assigned by the district which allow the Performance Office to directly communicate expectations for statewide assessments. These designated individuals are expected to disseminate information to appropriate district staff, ensure training, and communicate concerns with the Performance Office staff. They are supported by the Performance Office staff and test vendors and are provided appropriate guidance and resources that support activities related to the testing program. Please watch out for this communication.

Additionally, please take time to review and update user accounts and contact information related to each assessment program and system (e.g., TIDE, DRC InSight Portal). If you are a new District Administrator, please contact our office if you require assistance setting up your TIDE account for Smarter Balanced, NGSS, and the Connecticut Alternate Assessment System. Additionally, District administrators should delete accounts for inactive users. Please reference the [Test Information Distribution Engine \(TIDE\) User Guide](#) regarding viewing, adding, editing and deleting user roles. (Note: These updates do not apply to the Connecticut SAT School Day. A separate communication will be distributed to test coordinators to collect this information.)

TIDE Update

As of August 22, 2023, TIDE is being populated daily with the Summer PSIS Rollover information for the 2023 -24 school year. In an effort to improve setting student accommodations/supports for testing, the CSDE will also be preloading the student IDEA status (from the June 2023 PSIS Collection) as well as the Section 504 status (from the Spring 2023 CT Testing Demographics in PSIS Registration). It is anticipated in the fall of '23 that the CSDE (through CT-SEDS) will upload designated supports/accommodations from implemented IEPs and 504 Plans to TIDE, thus eliminating the need for districts to manually set them for students in the test delivery system (TDS), as was the protocol in previous years. When the October 2023 PSIS Collection data is valid enough for Freeze Zero, typically in November, the CSDE will use it to pre-load the Spring 2024 CT Testing Demographics values in PSIS Registration. When this is complete, the CSDE will begin using the Spring 2024 CT Testing Demographics values in PSIS Registration as the source of the data being sent to TIDE, as has been done in previous years. The values will also be able to be entered/edited in PSIS Registration at that time. More information on the Freeze Zero PSIS load will follow in the Fall.

Performance Matters Forum

October 12, 2023

Connecticut Convention Center

Registration Opens in September!



The [2023-24 Connecticut Summative Assessment System Policy Overview](#) has been updated. The document outlines the policies of the CSDE for the required state assessments that are administered to Connecticut public school students.

Special Populations Updates

English Learner/Multilingual Learner Resources

The [English Language Proficiency Assessment-LAS Links](#) and the [Connecticut DRC LAS Links Website](#) may be accessed to support students identified as English learners/Multilingual learners (EL/ML) in Grades K-12. The following communications were sent to English Learner Assessment Coordinators in May of 2023:

- [English Learner/Multilingual Learner Identification Screening Materials for the 2023-24 School Year](#)
- [English Learner/Multilingual Learner Identification Process](#)

LAS Links Reader Accommodation Resources for Planning and Placement Teams (PPTs) and English Language Assessment Coordinators (ELACs)

New resources were created to support PPT decisions for students in Grades K-12 with a disability who are also identified as an English learner/Multilingual learner (EL/ML). These students may be eligible for reader accommodations on the LAS Links (Connecticut's English language proficiency assessment) using either text-to-speech or a human reader, if appropriate. To screen for eligibility, the PPT should complete the [LAS Links Decision Guidelines for Text-to-Speech Accommodation for the Reading Domain](#) or the [LAS Links Documented Evidence for a Read Aloud Accommodation for the Reading Domain](#).

Refer to these related resources:

- [LAS Links Reader Options Table](#)
- [LAS Links Read Aloud Accommodation for the Reading Domain Guidelines and Security/Confidentiality Agreement](#)

Reprint of the Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS) Assessment Required Materials

[CTAS Required Materials](#) administered to eligible students in Grades 5, 8, and 11 by their trained TEA, will be reprinted and mailed to districts this fall. The new shipment will have "Reprinted Fall 2023" included in the footer. Please note the new shipment will not include the Student Score Worksheets which are to be downloaded and printed for each student each year. **You may continue using the CTAS materials from previous years as the assessment has not changed.**

Connecticut Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency (CAAELP)

The CAAELP was developed by the Collaborative for the Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency, a federally funded project. The grant period will be closing at the end of September and will now be managed by the National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards, and Student Testing (CRESST) at UCLA. Connecticut will continue to provide this alternate assessment under the name Connecticut Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency (CAAELP). It will continue to be one of the three components of our Alternate Assessment System intended for eligible English learners/multilingual learners (ELs/MLs) with significant cognitive disabilities in Grades K-12. **The CAAELP assessment window is February 1 -March 29, 2024.**

Student Assessment News: August 2023

CT-SEDS

The CSDE is working closely with our staff and vendors to make updates to the CT-SEDS statewide testing module for the upcoming school year. One new enhancement pertains to the submission of the [Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Eligibility Form](#). Trained TEAs will no longer submit the eligibility form through the Data Entry Interface. Rather, Planning and Placement Teams will complete the eligibility form within CT-SEDS. Once the eligibility form is completed in CT-SEDS and the Individualized Education Program (IEP) is fully implemented, the student will be officially identified as qualifying for alternate assessments. The CSDE will work with appropriate program vendors to identify eligible students and populate the Alternate Assessment Indicator in the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE). Details about this, other new features in CT-SEDS, and the sync of accommodations to TIDE will be coming soon!

Interim Assessments

[The Interim Assessments: Smarter Balanced and Next Generation Science Standards](#) is a one-stop 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](#).

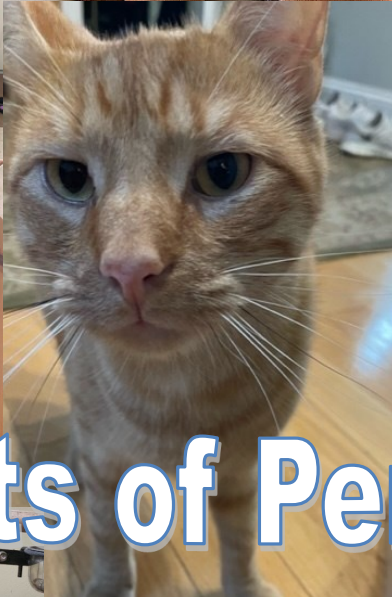
Beginning on August 29, 2023, two types of Interim Assessments will be available. Teachers can choose between Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs) and Focused Interim Assessment Blocks (FIABs). FIABs focus on fewer assessment targets than most current IABs and are designed to measure smaller bundles of content 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. Refer to the [2023-24 Accessibility Chart](#) for details.

Connecticut SAT School Day Updates

In preparation for the 2024 CT SAT, schools can visit the [College Board's website](#) regarding the new digital exam. Educators should download [College Board's Bluebook](#) to view practice items and even take a full-length practice test. **Bluebook will replace College Board's TIDE as the method of delivery for the new digital SAT.** Trainings will be scheduled for the late fall 2023 to help you prepare. A survey will be sent in September to test coordinators to gather information for the 2024 CT SAT. More resources for administering the test can be found on the [College Board's website](#) or the [CSDE's CT SAT website](#). Please contact [Michelle Rosado](#) if you have any questions.

A new resource is available to support district use of the Smarter Balanced Assessment System. The [2023-24 Back to School Assessment Playbook](#) details how educators can use Smarter Balanced resources including Tools for Teachers and Interim Assessments to plan and improve their instruction in the upcoming school year.



The Pets of Performance



Student Assessment News: August 2023

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 . |

Grades 3-8 educators in CT can apply to review items for ELA or mathematics for Smarter Balanced! Complete the [online application](#) and Smarter Balanced will contact you regarding opportunities.

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.

