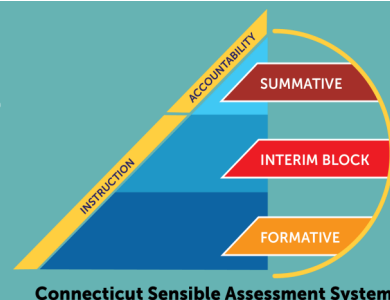




Student Assessment News

Connecticut State Department of Education
Performance Office



Connecticut Sensible Assessment System

April 2024

CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov

Connecticut SAT School Day Updates

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

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Retesting and Irregularities Guide

If you have any questions about scenarios during testing, [The Retesting and Irregularities Guide](#) has been posted to our website. Please contact College Board at 866-609-2205 with any questions.

Force Match and Waiving Accommodations in SDMS

Student accommodations can be waived in SDMS for those students who have permission to test without accommodations. A force match can be done in SDMS for those students who have approved accommodations but not showing up in SDMS. The Test Coordinator and the SSD Coordinator from each school has access in SDMS to do the force match or waive of accommodations. Once the force match or waiver is complete, it will take up to 4 days for this to be reflected in TDTK. Log in to SDMS and from the roster, select a student with accommodations and open their student details using the “+” sign to the left of their name. You can click the box to waive accommodations at which point those accommodations will then have a toggle appear that you can switch off. If the student did not have any accommodations listed, then where the yellow-redacted the SSD ID would be blank and permit you to enter that SSD ID to force match. This will generate a confirmation prompt. Please use Google Chrome when accessing SDMS.

CT SAT Student and Educator Score Release

Testing Weeks	Student Scores Available in College Board Account	Educator Access to Student Scores in College Board K-12 Portal
March 4-15, 2024	4/4/24	4/2/24
March 18-29, 2024	4/18/24	4/16/24
April 1-12, 2024	5/2/24	4/30/24
April 15-19, 2024	5/16/24	5/14/24

Summative Assessment Office Hours

The Performance Office team and our partner vendor, Cambium Assessment Inc. (CAI), will provide brief assessment updates and answer any questions about Smarter Balanced, Next Generation Science Standards, CTAA, and CTAS testing. The Office Hour will run every week on Thursday from 3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. beginning on March 28, 2024, and ending on May 30, 2024. Please [register here](#) to join these sessions.



Student Assessment News: April 2024

Summative Assessment Updates

Entering Designated Supports for Students who are not Identified as Special Education or Section 504

Please note, the CSDE guidance is that no designated support or accommodation should be entered/uploaded into TIDE by the district for students with IEPs or Section 504 plans. This is due to the IEP/504 plan being the legal binding document and to ensure there is no mismatch between finalized and implemented plans in CT-SEDS and TIDE.

For more information on how to manually enter designated supports for students who are not special education or Section 504, please refer to the [Manually Entering Designated Supports Page](#).

NGSS Reminders for Non-Embedded Universal Tools and Designated Supports

When preparing for NGSS testing, consider any additional tools your students might need.

- Download and print Periodic Tables for students in Grades 8 and 11 who need a hardcopy. [Spanish](#) and [English](#) versions are available on the portal. As a reminder, the Periodic Tables are embedded in the Test Delivery Interface as a universal tool. A Spanish version is available to those students with Spanish toggle selected in TIDE.
- [Bilingual Dictionaries and Glossaries Authorized for Use by English Learners/Multilingual Learners](#) provide potential resources for these students on the NGSS assessment.
- Text-to-Speech of science stimuli and items is available in English and Spanish. To enable the Spanish, set Presentation to Toggle for NGSS and activate Text-to-Speech for NGSS. The Spanish voice pack must be installed on the student's device prior to testing. The voice pack option selected should be based on the voice the student uses during instruction. For details, refer to APPENDIX G: EL/ML DESIGNATED SUPPORTS of the [Assessment Guidelines](#). For more information, refer to the [Accessibility Chart](#) and the [Embedded and Non-Embedded Designated Supports for English Learners](#) brochure.

2023-24 Test Administrator Training

The [Test Administrator Summative Assessment Training](#) can be used as a supplemental training resource for test administrators. All Test Administrators must be locally trained on standardized assessments prior to testing and follow test administration procedures and security protocols specified by the [Smarter Balanced](#), [NGSS](#), [CTAA](#), and [CTAS](#) Test Administration Manuals.

Sensible Assessment Community of Practice Virtual Meetings

Join us for monthly Community of Practice meetings listed below or visit the [Student Assessment Training](#) page to view previous sessions.

Time/Topic	Topic Description
April 24, 2024, 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Smarter Balanced Interims and District Sharing	Review resources and updated information for the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments. Connecticut educators will share strategies that incorporate the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments as tools to inform curriculum and instruction.
May 29, 2024, 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Using Smarter Balanced/NGSS Interim Results and District Sharing	Receive an overview of ways that Smarter Balanced/NGSS Interim Assessment results can be analyzed using the Centralized Reporting System. Connecticut educators will share their experiences and provide tips on analyzing interim results using the Centralized Reporting System.

Summative Assessment Updates

Summative Assessment Confirmation Attestation Page

The attestation page displayed to the right will appear when a Test Administrator administers the summative assessments using the Test Administration Interface. They will be required to complete this before they can advance and begin creating test sessions. The Performance Office is highlighting this image as it is a new enhancement for spring 2024.

Important!

All test items and test materials are secure and must be handled appropriately. Educators who administer Connecticut's summative assessments (e.g., Smarter Balanced, Connecticut Alternate Assessment, NGSS Assessments, and Connecticut Alternate Science) are required to maintain security of the tests, the testing materials, and the testing environment. Maintaining the security and integrity of the entire assessment process is vital to ensuring the reliability of the results and the validity of the inferences made about student performance.

Connecticut's test security requirements are outlined in the respective Test Administration Manuals listed below:

Smarter Balanced Test Administration Manual (see pages 2-5, 31 and 35)
Connecticut Alternate Assessment Test Administration Manual (see pages 25-29)
NGSS Assessment Test Administration Manual (see pages 9-11, 41 and 43)

If you have any questions, please contact your School or District Coordinator.

WARNING! You are in the process of selecting a Summative Test. Students only have one opportunity to take this test. Please confirm your selection below and click OK to continue. If you are ready to administer the SUMMATIVE TEST, type **Summative** in the box.

hello
Please enter the correct word.

OK Cancel

Special Populations

CT-SEDS and TIDE: Designated Supports and Accommodations

The Performance Office is providing the following update regarding student designated supports and accommodations for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or Section 504 Plans in CT-SEDS. The NGSS and Smarter Balanced student testing window opened on March 25, 2024. The CSDE and PCG have collaborated to create a process that extracts the supports and accommodations for students with implemented plans from CT-SEDS into TIDE. In most cases this exchange has been successful, but we encourage districts to work with their CT-SEDS OSEP Aggregate Data Manager or OSEP Aggregate District Administrator to review the Accommodations Report in "CT-SEDS Everyday" to confirm these designated supports and accommodations have populated correctly in TIDE prior to testing. If the designated support/accommodation is not correct in TIDE, the district should follow these steps:

- 1) Confirm that the correct designated supports and accommodations are set within CT-SEDS for students with implemented IEPs/Section 504 Plans. CT-SEDS is the official system that documents designated supports and accommodations. Any change to a student's test accommodations must be documented through a PPT meeting or Amendment, or Section 504 Plan Meeting.
- 2) Ensure that the IEP/Section 504 Plan has been implemented. If the IEP/Section 504 Plan has not been implemented, delay testing until the plan implements and the accommodation populates in TIDE. This may take 48 hours after implementation. Please note that syncing occurs from Monday-Friday and not on weekends or holidays.
- 3) In the rare case that a designated support/accommodation was removed from an implemented plan and TIDE does not reflect this change, the district should ensure that the School Coordinator, District Coordinator, or District Administrator is informed and then remove the designated supports/accommodation in TIDE on the day of testing.

Special Populations

Accommodation Reminders

Special Documented Accommodations Should Only be Selected in Exceptional Circumstances

In rare circumstances, there may be a student whose disabilities are such that the allowable embedded and non-embedded accommodations listed in the [Assessment Guidelines](#) would be insufficient to provide access to the Smarter Balanced and NGSS Assessments (e.g., significant and complex physical, visual, or print disabilities). These specialized, non-standard accommodations may include: Read Aloud of Reading Passages, Human Signer/Visual Support (Items and/or passages), Scribe, Manipulatives (Math, Grades 3-8), Hand-held calculator (Math, Grades 6-8) for calculator-allowed items (Segment 1 and Math PT), or Customized.

Verify that the selection of certain accommodations do not conflict.

PPTs should review and confirm that designated supports and accommodations selected in IEP/504 plans do not conflict when selecting them for statewide testing. Conflicting accommodations might include the accidental selection of a non-standard special documented accommodation in lieu of the embedded, standard version of that accommodation or the selection of both the standard and non-standard equivalent of the accommodation. For example:

- Embedded Text-to-Speech Items (Not ELA Reading Passages) and Non-Embedded Read Aloud Items (NOT ELA Reading Passages)
- Embedded Text-to-Speech ELA Reading Passages and Non-Embedded Read Aloud ELA Reading Passages
- Embedded Speech-to-Text (provided through the test delivery interface for open-ended items) and Scribe
- Embedded Color Contrast and Non-Embedded Color Contrast or Color Overlay
- Braille Booklet and Large Print
- Specialized Calculator (Grade 6-8 Math or Science Grades 5, 8, 11), which is a Braille/Talking Calculator, and Calculator (Math Grade 6-8 Special Documented Accommodation)

Distribute Appropriate Guidelines/Protocols for Students Approved for Special Documented Accommodations

District Administrators (DAs) for testing should work with their case managers and Special Education Directors to identify which students are selected for special documented accommodations in CT-SEDS. Then, as applicable, provide assigned test administrators with proper training and guidelines before the accommodation is provided to the student. Careful attention to planning is required when providing special documented accommodations to ensure that students are given the correct test materials and that the accommodations are properly administered following test security and confidentiality protocols. Please refer to Appendix D of the CSDE [Assessment Guidelines](#) for links to each applicable special documented accommodation and their corresponding administration procedures.

Resources for PPTs and Section 504 Teams

- [Description of Designated Supports and Accommodations for Smarter Balanced and Next Generation Science Standards Assessments \(cambiumast.com\)](#)
- [Resources for PPTs and 504 Teams Related to CT SEDS and Statewide Assessments.](#)

Reader Options Table for Smarter Balanced and NGSS

There are often questions about the available designated supports and accommodations for the Smarter Balanced Math and ELA, and NGSS assessments available for students who have a print or visual disability, or students who have language support needs (e.g., students with reading challenges, or EL/MLs who are not yet proficient in English). Refer to the [Reader Options Table](#) with details by subtest to learn about supports to help meet your student's access needs.

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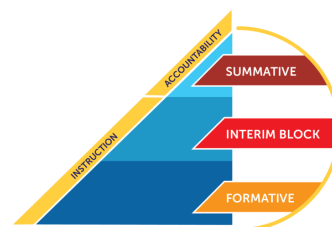
Summative Assessment Calendar for 2023-24

Assessment	Dates
Secure Browser for Smarter, NGSS, and CTAA	Please ensure you have updated the secure browser on each staff and student device for the 2023-24 school year. Please access the Technology Resources to support this process.
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.

The CSDE and Smarter Balanced are recruiting educators for the **State Network of Educators (SNE) meeting** on July 9-11, 2024, in Portland, Oregon. During this workshop, you will be asked to write (or support educators in writing) instructional resource lessons that will appear on Tools for Teachers. It is a chance to meet and learn from colleagues across member states. New and returning educators are encouraged to apply! To be considered, please complete the [interest form](#). If you are selected for participation, you'll receive an email from Smarter Balanced in April with instructions on registration. Make sure to check your spam folder.

Register for email updates

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



Connecticut Sensible Assessment System

