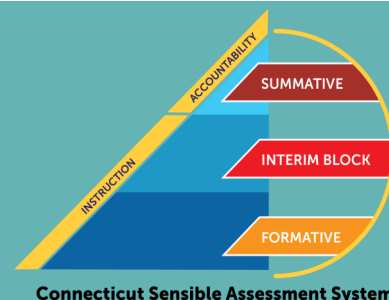




Student Assessment News

Connecticut State Department of Education
Performance Office



Connecticut Sensible Assessment System

April 2025

CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov

Understanding and Interpreting SAT® Suite Scores and Reports Webinar

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

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[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

Grade 11 students across Connecticut are taking the SAT. The results will soon be available, but what do you do with them? Join members from the College Board in this webinar to explore how you can view, analyze, and use SAT results to make data-driven decisions and inform student learning to foster greater college readiness for all students.

Two webinars have been scheduled, and participants must register. Participants will walk away with a clear understanding of how to interpret scores and suggestions for how to make your data actionable. We encourage building leaders, counselors, and other educators to join. **Please share this information with any interested colleagues.**

[Register here](#) – April 29 at 11am

[Register here](#) – May 28 at 12pm

Release Schedule for CT SAT Students Score Reports

Student Answer Submission	Scores Available in K-12 Reporting Portal	Scores Available to Students	Electronic Score Reports (ESR) Available for Educators
By March 14, 2025	April 1, 2025	April 3, 2025	April 9, 2025
By March 28, 2025	April 15, 2025	April 17, 2025	April 23, 2025
By April 11, 2025	April 29, 2025	May 1, 2025	May 7, 2025
By April 30, 2025	May 13, 2025	May 15, 2025	May 21, 2025

Sensible Assessment Webinars

The Performance Office will be conducting the following Sensible Assessment Webinars in May.

Topic/Time	Topic Description
Smarter Balanced Tools for Teachers Back to Basics May 1, 2025, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Join this webinar for a “back to basics” overview of Tools for Teachers and suggestions for future use of the tool to improve student achievement. Register here.
Individual Student Report Electronic Distribution May 28, 2025, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Beginning in 2027, the CSDE Performance Office will be distributing student score reports for Smarter Balanced, NGSS, and the Connecticut Alternate Assessments exclusively in a PDF format (not in paper format) for districts to distribute electronically. Join this webinar as several districts outline how they distribute reports electronically using these tools. Register here.

Student Assessment News: April 2025

Summative Assessment Updates

Student Assessment Scrum TEAMS Meetings

The Performance Office is hosting weekly [Student Assessment Scrum TEAMS Meetings](#) each Thursday through May 29, 2025.

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

Teachers should verify that students without IEPs or Section 504 plans that qualify for designated supports have them documented in TIDE prior to testing. For more information on this process, please refer to the [Documenting Designated Supports and Accommodations in TIDE](#). **Designated supports or accommodations should not be manually entered or batch uploaded into TIDE for students with IEPs or Section 504 Plans.** This is due to the IEP/504 plan being the legal binding document. All accessibility supports documented in a finalized and implemented plan in CT-SEDS will sync to TIDE.

Special Populations Updates

CT SAT School Day Force Matching

For most students with approved accommodations in SSD Online, their registration in SDMS will appear automatically matched with their accommodations. You will be able to see their SSD ID number and approved accommodations in the SDMS roster and student profile. However, because this information comes from two different sources and may have been entered far apart in time, these records may have differences that do not permit the system to automatically match registration and accommodation data. For example, if the student's name in SSD Online is different from the name provided in the student's test registration, SDMS would require permitted personnel to verify these two records belong to the same individual. This verification is called "force matching." Force matching SSD IDs in SDMS makes it easy for a school-level Test or SSD Coordinator to match the student test registration to their SSD accommodations using their SSD ID number. For more information, please refer to the [Test Coordinator Training](#).

CT SAT School Day Late Requests for Accommodations

- Submit temporary accommodation requests directly in SSD Online for students with temporary health conditions and injuries, such as a concussion or broken arm.
- Delay testing for students that have pending accommodations in SSD. Late requests may take up to four weeks for processing as they are reviewed in the order received. Please contact [Deirdre Ducharme](#) if you have any questions about this process.

Tips for Planning and Placement Team (PPT) or Section 504 Meetings Occurring During the Testing Window

The Performance Office recognizes that PPTs and Section 504 Team meetings occur throughout the school year and summative testing window. To ensure accuracy and optimal student accessibility it is recommended that teams do the following:

- Know the State Summative Testing window (March 24-May 30, 2025) and your district's summative testing window. This is key to ensure that IEPs or Section 504 Plans are finalized and implemented, a minimum of 5 days prior to the close of the last day of state testing. Remember, accessibility supports in a finalized and implemented plan take 48 hours to sync from CT-SEDS to TIDE.
- Teams should delay testing until the IEP or Section 504 Plan is finalized and implemented to ensure accuracy of accessibility supports and designated assessments (e.g., the standard vs. alternate assessment).
- Communicate any meetings and anticipated finalization/implementation dates to applicable educators administering testing and test coordinators.
- Plan for the grades that span the duration of the IEP or Section 504 Plan. The plan should have the current grade of enrollment through the end of the academic year.
- Share any updates regarding a change to accommodations or test eligibility with the DA, School Testing Coordinator, and teachers administering the summative assessments as soon as possible.

Special Populations

New Resource for English Learners/Multilingual Learners

The [Bilingual Glossaries and Cognates | NYU Steinhardt](#) was recently added as a language support for ELs/MLs participating on the NGSS Assessments in Grades 5, 8, and 11. Here's what to know:

- Students are not permitted to use digital word-to-word glossaries within the secure test platform or secure testing environment. Only paper copies are allowed.
- These materials are not secure, but they should be safely stored by the teacher if the student is testing over multiple days.
- The use of this support may result in the student needing additional overall time to complete the assessment.

Visit our webpage: [Bilingual Dictionaries and Glossaries Authorized for Use by English Language Learners](#) for more information.

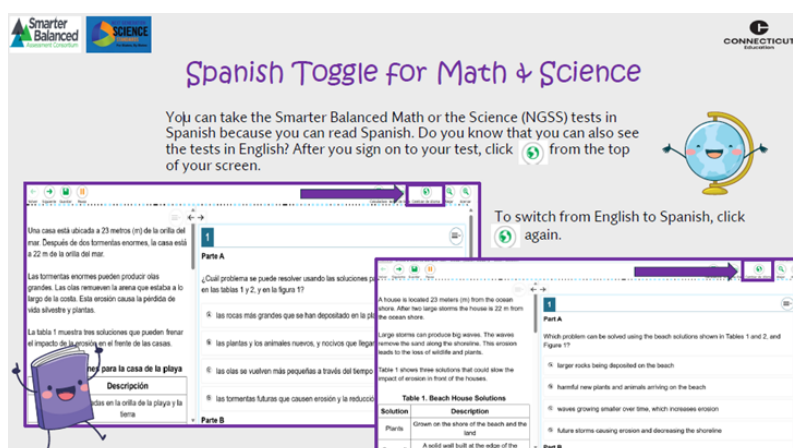
New! Resources for PPTs and 504 Teams - CT-SEDS and Statewide Assessments Training Page

Located on the [Resources for PPTs and 504 Teams - CT-SEDS and Statewide Assessments](#) web page, teams can find a new [Training Page](#) that contains training resources and materials for PPT and Section 504 Teams relating to CT-SEDS, statewide assessments, and accessibility supports. This training page includes ["Ten Do Now's for Planning on Statewide Assessments"](#) (Spring 2025). It's also a beneficial resource for DA's and staff that support their local testing program.

New! Optional Student Training Resources

A selection of optional [student training resources](#) is available for teachers to download and distribute to students when taking a practice test. They are intended to familiarize students with the online tools and supports available on the Smarter Balanced and/or Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessments, such as the use of global tools built into the test delivery interface.

Some resources may **only apply** to the use of certain designated supports and/or accommodations, for instance the Spanish Toggle or Text-to-Speech of ELA Reading Passages. Teachers should carefully review the options available to determine which [resources](#), if any, are applicable to their students. These materials **are not permitted** for use during the actual administration of the statewide summative assessment.



Please note, this is not an exhaustive list of accessibility resources, and not all accessibility supports are applicable to all students. Please refer to the [CSDE Assessment Guidelines](#) for additional information on specific supports and requirements.

Special Populations

Reminder to DAs: Distribute Appropriate Guidelines/Protocols for Students Approved for Accessibility Supports

District Administrators (DAs) for testing should work with their case managers and Special Education Directors to identify which students are selected for designated supports, accommodations, and 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.

- [Guidelines for Simplified Test Directions in the Test Administration Manual](#)
- [Smarter Balanced Assessments: Read Aloud Guidelines](#)
- [Smarter Balanced Mathematics and Next Generation Science Standards \(NGSS\) Assessments: Guidelines for Spanish Read Aloud of Stimuli and Items](#)
- [Scribe Special Documented Accommodations Protocol for Smarter Balanced and Next Generation Science](#)

[Standards Assessments](#)

- [Math Manipulatives Brochure](#)

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.

Spanish Toggle Reminders!

Text-to-Speech in Spanish is available on the Smarter Balanced math and NGSS assessment. For eligible students, set Text-to-Speech to Stimuli & Items for Math and Science and set presentation to Spanish Toggle. A Spanish voice pack must be downloaded to the student's testing device to enable the Spanish TTS.

Text-to-Speech Functionality

The text-to-speech (TTS) functionality allows students to choose to have a portion of text read on demand. Like all accessibility features, teachers should use practice tests to determine how accessibility features work and are utilized on the platform.

Students who specifically have TTS of passages and items selected in TIDE (or activated on a Practice Test), must first select the *Text-to-Speech icon* located at the top of passage. Then, they will select "Speak..."

To turn off the TTS, the student will select the *Text-to-Speech icon* again and select "Stop Speaking."

To have a specific portion of text reread, the student will right click their mouse and choose "Start Speaking from Here".

Please try this on an ELA Practice or Interim Assessment with your student to make sure it works. Also note the "Settings" icon on the upper right portion of the student's test screen allows the student to adjust the TTS volume, pitch, and rate.

Text-to-Speech Icon



Settings Icon



Please note Text-to-Speech **does not** work:

- with a limited number of ELA writing items that measure grammar usage/punctuation; this is intentional, as the oral presentation of the item might otherwise cue a student to respond a certain way.
- with the drop-down questions on the NGSS; "Speak Options" will not appear as a selection.

If you need technical support, please contact the Connecticut Help Desk (Cambium Assessment) at 1.844.202.7583 or via email at cthelpdesk@cambiumassessment.com.

Special Populations

Checking Accessibility Supports in TIDE for students with a 504 or IEP Prior to Testing

As you prepare for spring testing, please take time to work with your CT-SEDS Data Manager to review accommodations for Smarter Balanced and NGSS. We recommend that districts work with their CT-SEDS OSEP Aggregate Data Manager or OSEP Aggregate District Administrator to review the Accommodations Report in CT-SEDS Everyday and confirm that the 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 a finalized and implemented IEP/Section 504 Plan. 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, Section 504 Plan meeting or an amendment.
2. Ensure that the IEP/Section 504 Plan has been finalized and 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.

Resources to support teams with this process are listed below:

- [Cross-Checking Student TIDE Test Settings and CT-SEDS](#)
- [CT SEDS/TIDE Syncing Concerns](#)
- [CT-SEDS to TIDE Designated Supports/Accommodations Sync Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Conflicting Accessibility Supports

It is important that teams ensure that students do not have conflicting accessibility supports for summative assessments.

These are examples of conflicting accessibility supports:

- Embedded Text-to-Speech and Non-Embedded Read Aloud
- Embedded Speech-to-Text and Non-Embedded Scribe
- Embedded Color Contrast and Non-Embedded Color Contrast or Color Overlay
- Embedded Print Size Online and Non-Embedded Large Print Test Booklet
- 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)

If any of these combinations are identified, please discuss the accommodations with the student's Case Manager to determine if an amendment should be made to the plan. It is important that teachers administering the assessment know exactly which accommodations should be provided to the student to prevent test irregularities and over testing.

Student Assessment News: April 2025

2024 - 25 State Summative Assessment Calendar

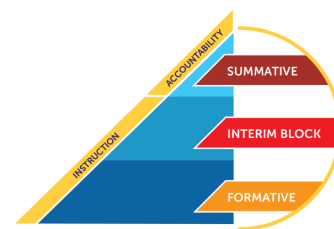
Content Area(s)	Assessment	Grade(s)	Testing Window
English Language Proficiency: Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing	LAS Links	K-12	January 2 - March 7, 2025
	Connecticut Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency (CAAELP)	K-12	January 13 - March 7, 2025
English Language Arts (ELA) & Mathematics	Connecticut Smarter Balanced	3-8	March 24 - May 30, 2025
	Connecticut SAT School Day	11	March 3 - April 23, 2025*
	Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA)	3-8 and 11	March 24 - May 30, 2025
Science	Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessment	5, 8, and 11	February 3 - May 30, 2025 (Grade 11) March 24 - May 30, 2025 (Grades 5 and 8)
	Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment (CTAS)	5, 8, and 11	Dates to upload to the DEI: March 24 - May 30, 2025 The CTAS can be administered all year.
Physical Fitness	Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment	4, 6, 8, and once during high school	September 3, 2024, to May 30, 2025
Language, Literacy, Numeracy, Physical/Motor, Creative/Aesthetic, and Personal/Social	Kindergarten Entrance Inventory	Kindergarten	Snapshot Date: October 17, 2024 Submission Due Date: December 13, 2024

*Within the testing window, schools can choose their primary and make-up test dates. Schools can use as many or as few days in the testing window as they would like. They can choose to test all students on a single day, or they can test smaller groups of students over multiple days.

Connecticut Summative Assessment Calendar for 2025 - 26

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