



### STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

April 20, 2018

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

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## PSIS Data and Connecticut Summative Assessments

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

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Public School Information System (PSIS) Coordinators and District Administrators should be collaborating to review the student data to ensure it is correct in the PSIS Registration Module **by May 25, 2018**. On that date, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) will be taking a “snapshot” of the data in the PSIS Registration Module (called the Registration Test Freeze) which will drive the reporting for the annual summative assessment results (participation only for the Next Generation Science Standards Science Field Test and the Connecticut Alternate Science Field Test) for the Connecticut SAT School Day, the Smarter Balanced Assessment, and the Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA). The Performance Office recommends **weekly check-ins** between PSIS Coordinators and District Administrators to complete this review and guarantee high-quality data in reporting. During these check-ins, staff should be monitoring things such as:

- Correct student grades.
- Students who may need to be exited from PSIS.
- Students who may need to be entered into PSIS.

The correct student’s statuses are reflected during the time of testing. These fields include:

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

Districts have until May 25, 2018, to complete this review. To support this effort, in the *Reports* section of the PSIS Registration Module, there is a report, “Missing Connecticut Testing Demographic Status Values,” which can be used to ensure all values have been reported for your students. Additionally, a resource, [The Importance of Accuracy in the PSIS Registration Module for Statewide Summative Testing](#) is posted to the CSDE Web site to aid districts in this important process. Contact the Student Assessment Office at 860-713-6860 or [ctstudentassessment@ct.gov](mailto:ctstudentassessment@ct.gov) if you have any questions.



Connecticut Alternate Assessment



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### NGSS Field Test Timing and Sessions

The CSDE and American Institutes for Research (AIR) have received some questions about the timing and sessions of the NGSS Field Test. Please note that the NGSS Field Test is designed as one continuous test and does not have sessions. Test Administrators may choose to give students a 10-minute break after about 45 minutes of testing. This break is optional. Each student will receive approximately the same number of questions on the Field Test, however, questions will vary from student to student. The Field Test consists of six item clusters with multiple questions and 12 short, often one-question, items.



### Monitoring Test Progress

It is very important that districts and schools track test completion for students taking the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments, NGSS Field Test, CTAA, and the Learner Characteristics Inventory (LCI). As a reminder, the testing window closes on **May 25, 2018**. The [Monitoring Test Progress: Test Status Code Report and Test Completion Rates](#) brochure contains instructions for generating Test Status Code Reports and Test Completion Rates in the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE). These are excellent tools that should be used to track test completion for students at both the district and school level.



### Connecticut SAT School Day Updates

#### Fee Waivers

Schools should have received fee waiver cards and information about fee waivers. While the CSDE covers the cost of the Connecticut SAT School Day test for your Grade 11 students, students who are eligible for fee waivers (see criteria listed below) can unlock additional benefits using the cards provided, including additional score sends, college application fee waivers and access to the student answer service (plus more). [Accessing the Benefits of Fee Waivers](#) provides more information.

Fee waiver eligibility:

- The student is enrolled in or eligible for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).
- The student is enrolled in a federal, state, or local program that aids students from low-income families (for example, a TRIO program such as Upward Bound).
- The student's annual family income falls within the Income Eligibility Guidelines set by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (provided at [sat.org/fee-waivers](http://sat.org/fee-waivers)).
- The student's family receives public assistance.
- The student lives in federally subsidized public housing or a foster home, or is homeless.
- The student is a ward of the state or an orphan.

If you have additional Grade 11 students that meet the criteria above and you need additional fee waiver cards, please contact the College Board Customer Service at 855-373-6387.

CTAA

Connecticut Alternate Assessment



## Special Populations Updates

### Connecticut Alternate Assessment Secure Testing Materials

The [Connecticut Alternate Assessment \(CTAA\) brochure](#) “How To Access and Download The CTAA Secure Testing Materials” provides instructions for how to access and download the CTAA secure testing materials from the TIDE. These grade- and subject-specific secure testing materials include **required** Directions for Test Administration and PDF test forms, which may be used for administering the CTAA to eligible students requiring this accommodation. The secure testing materials are available in TIDE to **District Administrators (DAs)** and **Teachers Administering the Alternate (TEAs) ONLY!**

### Students in PSIS who attend Out-of-State Facilities or In-State Non-Approved Non-Public Facilities

Connecticut public school districts are responsible to test students in the Public School Information System (PSIS) who are enrolled in out-of-state facilities or are enrolled in, in-state non-approved non-public schools. Information on how to administer the NGSS Assessment Field Test, NGSS Alternate Assessment Field Test, Smarter Balanced Assessment and the Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) are included in the [Students in PSIS who attend Out-of-State or In-State Non-Approved Facilities](#) document. It is also required that districts test these students in Grade 11 who are enrolled in out-of-state or in-state non-approved non-public programs with the Connecticut SAT School Day or CTAA.

### Additional Guidance for the Early Stopping Rule for the CTAA and the CTAS

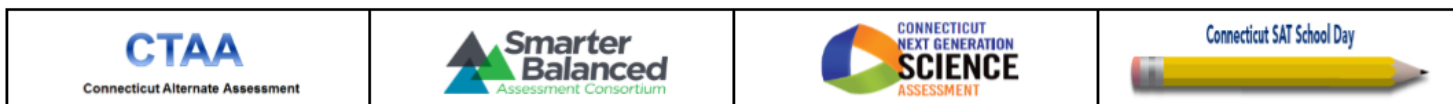
The CTAA and CTAS administration windows overlap so trained teachers (TEAs) may administer these alternate assessments in either order in accordance with the test directions and test windows. If a student is in Grade 5, 8 or 11, prior to calling the CSDE to discuss the Early Stopping Rule (ESR) for the CTAA, the TEA should begin the activities associated with the CTAS. If when participating in the CTAS, the student shows no observable response on the student response check (SRC) **and** no observable response (NR) for the first activity in the first storyline (Form 1: Earth Science Activity 1 or Form 2 Earth Science Activity 1), then the TEA should call the CSDE **before** continuing the CTAS. This step would also occur **before** the TEA enters the data entry interface (DEI) for the CTAS. The TEAs administering both the CTAA and CTAS may make one phone call to the Student Assessment Office if the student is being considered for the ESR for both the CTAA and the CTAS. Please refer to the [Guidance About Students Who Qualify For the Connecticut Alternate Assessment Early Stopping Rule](#) and the [Guidance About Students Who Qualify for the Connecticut Alternate Science Early Stopping Rule](#).

### Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment Resources

On March 16, all Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS) materials were released to the Connecticut Public Schools. The materials are located on the [Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Portal](#).

### Large Print or Braille for the NGSS Assessment Field Test

All request for large print or braille booklets for the *NGSS Assessment Field Test* **MUST** be ordered directly from AIR by calling 1-844-202-7583. These students must also have these accommodations indicated on their test settings in TIDE.



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**Special Populations Updates**

**Training for Teachers Administering the NGSS Alternate Assessment Field Test in Grades 5, 8, and 11**

An e-mail was sent on March 5, 2018, to Trained Teachers Administering the Alternate Assessments (TEAs) regarding the upcoming 2017-18 NGSS Alternate Assessment Field Test in Grades 5, 8, and 11. Trained Teachers who have students eligible for the alternate assessment in these grades **must** participate in the new online Connecticut Alternate Science Test (CTAS) Training available in Schoology. This training module will be available on Schoology until **April 25, 2018**. Please take a moment to review the procedures to complete this training:

**Procedure to take the CTAS Training:**

- A. If you took the 2017-18 CSDE Alternate Assessment System Training, you may access training through your Schoology account.
- [Log in to Schoology](#)
  - Provide your username and password
  - ONLY review the PowerPoint in the folder labeled ***“The Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS)”***
  - Take the quiz for this PowerPoint (you may take it as often as needed to receive a minimum of 80 percent)
  - You will **NOT** receive notification indicating that you completed the CTAS Training, however your participation will be determined by your submitted quiz.
- B. If you did not take the 2017-18 CSDE Alternate Assessment System Training, you may access training through your Schoology account.
- Register for the [2017-18 CSDE Alternate Assessment System Training](#) on the SERC Web site
  - You may choose to take the entire course, which includes the CTAA **and** the new CTAS, or **ONLY** review the PowerPoint in the folder labeled ***“The Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS)”***
  - Take the quiz for this PowerPoint (you may take it as often as needed to receive a minimum of 80 percent)
  - You will **NOT** receive notification indicating that you completed the Alternate Assessment System Training or the CTAS Training, however, your participation will be determined by your submitted quiz.

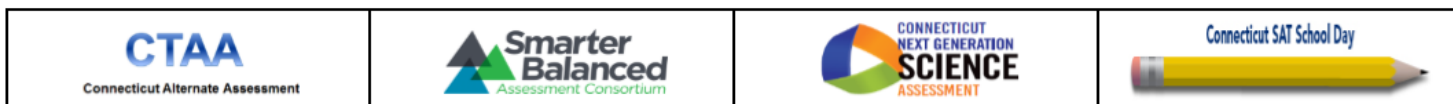
In addition to this training, more details about the administration of the CTAS Field Test were sent in the [March 16, 2018, memo](#) to District Administrators.

If you have any questions, contact the Student Assessment Office at 860-713-6860.

**Alternate Assessment Indicator**

The deadline to submit the Learner Characteristics Inventory (LCI) was March 16. The Alternate Assessment Indicator was set to “yes” in TIDE for those eligible students who had an LCI submitted by the March 16, deadline. The Alternate Assessment Indicator allows eligible students to access the required alternate assessments.

If a student becomes eligible for the alternate assessment after the March 16, please contact the AIR Help Desk at 844-202-7583 and provide the SASID for the student and confirmation that the LCI has been submitted so that the Alternate Assessment Indicator can be set to “yes.”



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**State Assessment Window**

State Assessment	Testing Window	Resources
NGSS Field Test	March 26-May 25 (Grade 11)  April 30-May 25 (Grade 5, 8)	<a href="#">Resources for NGSS Field Test Administration</a>
Connecticut Alternate Science Field Test (CTAS)	Upload Dates: April 30-May 25	<a href="#">Resources for CTAS</a>
Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA)	March 26-May 25	<a href="#">Resources for CTAA Test Administration</a>
Connecticut Smarter Balanced	March 26-May 25	<a href="#">Resources for Smarter Balanced Test Administration</a>
Connecticut SAT School Day	Make-up Dates: April 24 and 25	<a href="#">Resources for Connecticut SAT School Day Administration</a>

**Office Hours Webinars**

The CSDE will be hosting Office Hours webinars for the **Smarter Balanced Assessment, Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Field Tests (Alternate and Census), and the Connecticut Alternate Assessment**. On the webinars, the CSDE staff and their partner vendor, American Institutes for Research (AIR), will provide brief, weekly assessment updates and will also be available for phone support. Below are the details of the Office Hours.

**Intended Audience:** Any district/school staff who may oversee state summative testing.

**When:** Every Thursday until May 24, from 3-4 p.m.

**Where/How:** Please register for each week here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/5278114698288158466>.

**Want to find recent announcements regarding Connecticut’s assessments? Please visit the CSDE’s [Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal](#). You will find information about each assessment, as well as technology resources and information for students and families.**

**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.

