



# Student Assessment News

Connecticut State Department of Education • Performance Office

February 2023

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

## Getting Ready for the Connecticut SAT School Day

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

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[Summative Assessment Calendar for 2022-23](#)

[State Summative Assessment Calendar for Connecticut public schools for the 2023-24 school year](#)

### Complete the online training courses

[TIDE for Test & SSD Coordinators](#)  
[Test Coordinator Training](#)  
[Proctor Training](#)

### Complete the tasks on the [Coordinator Checklist](#)

**Technical Readiness-** Work with your technology coordinator to ensure all digital setup activities listed in the [Step-by-Step Guide](#) have been completed.

**College Board TIDE Access** - All SAT test coordinators should now have access to the College Board TIDE, which should be accessed from the [College Board Digital Testing Portal](#). Do not access TIDE for the SAT School Day as you do for other state assessments. Test coordinators must create proctor accounts.

**Students with Accommodations and Supports-** Students testing with accommodations or supports use accessibility features that must be configured in CB TIDE before test day. There is no automatic upload from SSD Online or CT SEDS to CB TIDE. For additional information, including

how to configure student test settings in CB TIDE and to view the digital accommodations webinar, visit the [Digital Testing Accommodations Essentials webpage](#).

**Materials to Support Digital Testing-** Your shipment of materials to support digital testing has arrived. This will include all materials for both testing windows. Hold onto your manuals, Quick Start Guides, Student Guides, etc. to use in both windows. You will **not** receive any additional shipments.

Questions: Contact [Michelle Rosado](#) or College Board at [CTSAT@collegeboard.org](mailto:CTSAT@collegeboard.org) or 855-373-6387.

College Board Digital Test Portal <https://digitaltesting.collegeboard.org/>  
CT SAT Web site: [Connecticut SAT School Day--Related Resources](#)

## Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment (CPFA) Individual Student Data Collection Application is Now Open

As previously communicated, the CSDE will be collecting individual student assessment achievement levels for the Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment (CPFA) in 2022-23. Districts will be required to provide the achievement level attained for all four CPFA components for all students in tested grades through an online application. The *CPFA Individual Student Collection Application* is now open. Information on the collection and application (e.g., Test Administration Manual, CPFA Individual Student Collection Application Users Guide and Sample/Template File) can be found on the [CPFA Individual Student Collection Page](#). The tentative deadline for data submission is June 30, 2023. It is important to note that access for users will need to be provisioned by each district's LEA Security Manager. To find who each district LEA Security Manager is, please visit the EdSight [Find Contacts Report](#).



Connecticut Alternate Assessment



Connecticut  
Alternate  
Science  
Assessment



CONNECTICUT  
SAT School Day

## Student Assessment News: February 2023

### Special Populations Updates

#### Reader Options Table for Smarter Balanced and Next Generation Science Standards Assessments

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.

#### Embedded and Non-Embedded Designated Supports for English Learners

Students who are English learners/multilingual learners (EL/MLs) may benefit from using designated supports when participating on the Connecticut state-wide assessments. These supports are intended as a language support for students with limited English language skills, whether or not they are identified in PSIS as EL or EL with a disability. The use of these supports may result in the student needing additional overall time to complete the assessment. Students should use the Practice Test with the designated supports prior to testing to ensure that they are appropriate and accessible prior to use on statewide assessments. Refer to the Embedded and Non-Embedded Supports for English Learners [brochure](#) for details.

#### Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Eligibility Forms Due March 1, 2023

The Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Eligibility Form is used by Connecticut Teachers Administering the Alternate Assessment (TEAs), and Planning and Placement Teams (PPTs) to determine eligibility for student participation in Connecticut's Alternate Assessment System. Forms must be submitted through the Data Entry Interface (DEI) by March 1, 2023, in order to register a student for participation in the Alternate Assessment System. If submissions occur after this date, the trained TEA or District Administrator for Testing should contact the Connecticut Help Desk at 844-202-7583 to report the submission. The Cambium Assessment Team will need to manually set the student's Alt Flag Indicator in TIDE for these students to have access to the alternate assessments. Without this activation, students will only have access to the standard Smarter Balanced and/or NGSS Assessments. As a reminder, eligibility forms must be submitted in the DEI even if the forms are completed in CT-SEDS.

#### Special Documented Accommodation Reminders Due March 1, 2023

In exceptional circumstances the District Administrator (DA) may contact CSDE to request Special Documented Accommodations that provide access beyond the standard accommodations for statewide assessments to eligible students. The process and the accommodations included in this category are shared in the [CSDE Assessment Guidelines](#) in Appendix C.

If the student's IEP is **finalized** in CT-SEDS prior to March 1, 2023, no Special Documented Accommodation Petition is required for Scribe, Read Aloud of ELA Reading Passages, Human Signer/ Visual Support for ELA or math, Human Signer/Visual Support for ELA Reading Passages, Math Manipulatives, Non-Embedded Calculator (Math Grades 6-8). If the student requires Print on Demand or Customized Accommodations, please contact [Deirdre Ducharme](#).

#### Important CT-SEDS Updates!

State-testing accommodations were updated to the IEP and 504 modules to include associated values with the following designated supports and accommodations: Mouse pointer, Print Size, Color Contrast, Braille Type, and Braille Booklets.

For those students with implemented IEPs or 504s with these accommodations prior to February 10, 2023, the associated values should be entered manually into TIDE before the testing window. These updates do not require an amendment or technical revision. Refer to this [guide](#) for a listing of attributes. The Performance Office will contact District Administrators prior to March 10, 2023, if these supports/accommodations were selected in CT-SEDS prior to February 10. Otherwise, no action is required.

## Student Assessment News: February 2023

### Special Populations Updates

<b>2022-23 Populating Designated Support/Accommodations in TIDE</b>		
<b>Important! The IDEA and 504 Indicator must be set in PSIS to sync, upload, or manually set accommodations in TIDE.</b>		
<u>Student's Status</u>	<u>Populating Designated Supports and/or Accommodations in TIDE</u>	<u>Special Documented Accommodations</u>
Finalized/Implemented IEP/504 Plan in CT-SEDS	<p>Designated supports and accommodations selected for the 2022-23 test administration will sync with TIDE nightly. <b>The daily sync is expected to begin prior to the March testing window.</b></p> <p>The following designated supports and accommodations were recently updated in CT-SEDS. If one or more of these accommodations were selected in a finalized/implemented IEP <b>prior to 2/10/2023</b>, please select the associated attribute manually in TIDE or update it directly in CT-SEDS prior to testing. This does not require an amendment. Please refer to the footnote below for a list of the attributes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mouse Pointer</li> <li>2. Print Size</li> <li>3. Color Contrast</li> <li>4. Braille Type</li> <li>5. Braille Booklets</li> </ol>	<p>If the following non-standard accommodations are selected in CT-SEDS, they will sync with TIDE:</p> <p>Read Aloud of ELA Reading Passages Scribe Math Manipulatives (3-8)</p> <p>If a human signer or calculator (6-8) is selected in a finalized/implemented IEP/504 Plan, the student will test with these accommodations but they will not be populated in TIDE this year.</p> <p>Districts can generate an Accommodations Report in CT-SEDS to view students identified with all accommodations, including special documented accommodations, per their implemented IEP/504 Plan.</p>
Most Current IEP/504 Plan in Previous Vendor System without 2022-23 Designated Supports and Accommodations	<p>The PPT should reconvene to review/revise the IEP or create an amendment to outline designated supports and accommodations for the 2022-23 school year.</p> <p>Then the district may upload a test accommodation file to TIDE (e.g., Frontline or locally generated TIDE Test Setting <a href="#">Excel</a> or <a href="#">Comma-Separated Value (CSV)</a> file layouts), or manually enter designated supports/accommodations in TIDE prior to testing.</p>	<p>If the following non-standard accommodations are needed, please refer to the Appendix C of the <a href="#">Assessment Guidelines</a> for information on requesting a petition for Special Documented Accommodations:</p> <p>Human Signer/Visual Support Read Aloud of ELA Reading Passages Scribe Calculator (6-8) Math Manipulatives (3-8)</p>
IEP/504 Plans in Previous Vendor System with 2022-23 Designated Supports and Accommodations	<p>If the district is working with the IEP vendor, districts can upload their file to TIDE prior to testing.</p>	
English Learner/Multilingual Learner Plans	<p>Districts will upload or manually enter designated supports in TIDE prior to testing. Refer to the TIDE Test Setting <a href="#">Excel</a> or <a href="#">Comma-Separated Value (CSV)</a> file layouts.</p>	Non-Applicable
General Education	<p>Districts will upload or manually enter designated supports in TIDE prior to testing. Refer to the TIDE Test Setting <a href="#">Excel</a> or <a href="#">Comma-Separated Value (CSV)</a> file layouts.</p>	Non-Applicable

## Student Assessment News: February 2023

### Special Populations Updates

#### Collaborative for the Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency (CAAELP)

##### Testing Window Reminders (February 1-March 31, 2023)

These are steps that need to be in place prior to administering the live CAAELP assessment.

- The test administrator should have participated in the CAAELP training (this is a separate training from CTAA/CTAS).
- The test administrator must have a TEA user role in TIDE (this is created by the District Administrator for testing (DA) in TIDE).
- The student must have IDEA =Yes and LEP = Yes indicated in their Student Profile in TIDE. These fields are populated from PSIS.
- The Alternate Assessment System Eligibility Form has been submitted in the Data Entry interface (DEI) for this student by a teacher with the TEA user role certified to administer the CTAA/CTAS.
- The Alternate Assessment Indicator Flag is set to Yes in the TIDE Student Profile.
- For students in Grades K-2, 9, 10, and 12 submit the [English Learners/Multilingual Learners Eligible for the Alternate Assessment Form 2022-23](#) on the CSDE DRC LAS Links Website.

Additional resources have been added to the [CAAELP Resources](#) under Ancillary Materials which include a Comparison of Connecticut Alternate Assessments, a Comparison of LAS Links and CAAELP, the LAS Links and CAAELP Text-to-Speech (TTS) vs. Read Aloud table and the January 4, 2023 Office Hours presentation.

#### CAAELP Domain Exemption Submission Process

Domain Exemptions are available for the Listening and/or Speaking Domains. Although the CAAELP assessment has great flexibility in providing accommodations to dually identified students we recognize EL/ML students with an IEP who cannot access the Listening or Speaking domains due to their disability may request a domain exemption for the applicable subtest.

The DA user role in TIDE will be able to submit the CAAELP Domain Exemption Form. The CAAELP Domain Exemption Form is in TIDE under Preparing for Testing.

The image displays two screenshots from the TIDE (TIDE) system. The left screenshot shows the 'Preparing for Testing' dashboard with a sidebar menu containing options like Users, Students, Test Settings and Tools, Rosters, Orders, District Shipping Contact Information, Secure Testing Materials, and Forms. The right screenshot shows the 'Submit Forms' page, which includes a search bar for 'Student ID/User Email' and a dropdown menu for 'Type of Form to Submit'. The dropdown menu is open, showing options: 'Early Stopping Rule Requ...', 'Early Stopping Rule Request and Attestation Form', and 'CAAELP (All ELPs) Student Domain Exemption Form'.

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### Public School Information System (PSIS) and State Assessments

The Public School Information System (PSIS) provides data to test delivery systems for state summative assessments administered to Connecticut public school students. These assessments include the LAS Links, the Collaborative for the Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency (CAAELP), Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessment, Smarter Balanced, Connecticut Alternate Assessments (CTAA) in English language arts and mathematics, Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS), and the Connecticut SAT School Day. **District PSIS Coordinators must work closely with Testing Coordinators, English Language Assessment Coordinators (ELACs), and SAT Test Coordinators to ensure that student information is being reported accurately.** The state relies on districts to provide accurate reporting of PSIS student-level data. Select fields such as English Learner status, Special Education status, and Section 504 status must be updated prior to testing to ensure students eligible for accommodations may access them. Data are used for public/secure reporting of statewide test results and as part of Connecticut's Next Generation Accountability System.

#### The PSIS Registration module has been updated to include the following Testing Demographic fields:

- Special Education (SPED) Status,
- Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) Status,
- English Learner/Multilingual Learner (EL/ML) Status,
- Military Family,
- Homeless,
- Recently Arrived EL/ML, and
- Section 504 Status.

**These seven values must reflect the student's status at the time of testing for the 2022-23 school year.** The SPED, FRL, EL/ML, Military Family, and Homeless have been loaded with the values reported in the October PSIS Collection Freeze Zero file (i.e., freeze file from the collection generated on November 3, 2022). The values for Recently Arrived EL and Section 504 were not pulled from Freeze Zero because these data are not reported in the PSIS October collection. These values have been set to "No" in the Registration Module and must be updated in the PSIS Registration Module for testing and reporting purposes.

Please note, that if the status of any the first five fields changed from the value reported in the October PSIS Collection Freeze Zero, or if the student being tested was not in the PSIS October Collection Freeze Zero, the District PSIS Coordinator must update the student's record in the PSIS Registration Module.

Changes to the Testing Demographic data can be made via the "Edit Registration/Unregister" page in the PSIS Registration Module or by batch. The Testing Demographics Record Layout for batch uploads can be found in the [PSIS Reference Guide](#) located on the PSIS help site.

District PSIS Coordinators must make all changes to student enrollment and demographic information directly into the PSIS Registration Module. Student demographic values will be saved and the fields will be locked in PSIS on the following dates for accountability calculations:

- **March 3, 2023**, for LAS Links;
- **March 31, 2023**, for the Collaborative for the Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency (CAAELP);
- **April 27, 2023**, for the Connecticut SAT School Day; and
- **June 2, 2023**, for Smarter Balanced Assessments, the Next Generation Science Standards Assessments, and the Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Assessments (CTAS and CTAA).

The Missing Connecticut Testing Demographic Status Values report is available in PSIS Registration Module, and the Active Roster download has been updated to include the Testing Demographic values. Data from the PSIS Registration Module are updated on a nightly basis in both the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) and DRC's INSIGHT System. Again, these seven fields in the PSIS Registration Module must reflect the student's status at the time of testing.

To enter accommodations in TIDE, students must be identified as Special Education or Section 504 in the PSIS Registration Module. (CSDE is working on a process to load SPED and Section 504 values as well as accommodations from CT-SEDS into PSIS on a nightly basis. More information will be provided as that process is implemented.) Similarly, for a student to access a LAS Links assessment in the DRC Insight system, a student must be identified as an English learner/multilingual learner in the PSIS Registration Module. Additionally, a student may be identified as both an English learner and a student with disabilities, and should be reflected as such in the PSIS testing demographic fields prior to the opening of the LAS Links testing window, **January 3, 2023.**



## Student Assessment News: February 2023

### Summative Assessment Calendar for 2022-23

Assessment	Dates
English Language Proficiency Assessment-LAS Links	January 3-March 3, 2023
CAAELP (Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency)	February 1-March 31, 2023
CT SAT School Day	March 22-24 and March 28-29, 2023; Additional make up dates: April 25-27, 2023
NGSS	February 6-June 2, 2023 (Grade 11) March 27-June 2, 2023 (Grades 5 and 8)
Connecticut Alternate Assessment—CTAA	March 27-June 2, 2023
Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment—CTAS (Administered throughout the year)	(Upload Window for Submission through the DEI: CTAS Student Score Worksheet) March 27-June 2, 2023 (Grades 5, 8, and 11)
Connecticut Smarter Balanced Assessments	March 27-June 2, 2023
Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment	Anytime during the school year

The deadline for the **Alternate Assessment System ESR Request/Attestation Form** is **March 1, 2023**. The District Administrator (DA) for Testing submits this Attestation Form in TIDE. Prior to submission, these requirements must be in place:

- ✓ The student must have IDEA =Yes (and if applicable LEP = Yes) indicated in their student profile in TIDE. These fields are populated from PSIS.
- ✓ The Alternate Assessment System Eligibility Form has been submitted in the Data Entry interface (DEI) for the student by a trained teacher with the TEA user role.
- ✓ All dates, signatures, and check boxes have been completed.

**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.

