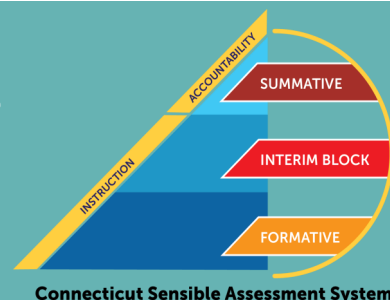




Student Assessment News

Connecticut State Department of Education
Performance Office



Connecticut Sensible Assessment System

May 2024

CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov

Summative Assessment Testing Window Closing May 31, 2024

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

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As a reminder, the summative testing window closes on May 31, 2024, for the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments, NGSS Assessments, and CTAA/CTAS Assessments. It is important for districts and schools to track test completion for students. The [Monitoring Test Progress: Test Status Code Report and Test Completion Rates](#) brochure provides instructions for generating Test Status Code Reports and test completion rates in TIDE. These reports are excellent tools that provide users the ability to track individual student test completion at both the district and school level. Please email ctstudentassessment@ct.gov with any questions.

Rolling Release of Scores for Smarter Balanced, NGSS, CTAA, CTAS, & CAAELP

The Performance Office has opened the “Rolling Release” of results for Smarter Balanced, NGSS, and Connecticut Alternate Assessments through Cambium Assessment, Inc.’s [Centralized Reporting System](#) (CRS). These preliminary results will include any tests that have been *taken and scored*. NGSS and Connecticut Alternate Assessment results will be available approximately one day after a student has taken the test. Due to hand scoring requirements, it may take up to 10 business days for Smarter Balanced results to be made available. Similar to results dissemination in previous years, the CSDE is targeting mid-June to make all final results available.

IMPORTANT: Please note that these are preliminary and not official results; therefore, they should not be disseminated publicly. Preliminary results are being provided to help educators receive more timely feedback on student performance and for districts to assist with program planning.

The final Connecticut Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency (CAAELP) results are also now available on the CRS. Districts will not receive paper individual student reports (ISRs) for this assessment. Districts will need to print and distribute CAAELP ISRs from the CRS to parents/guardians.

If support is need using the CRS, please see the [Centralized Reporting System Users Guide](#). Please email ctstudentassessment@ct.gov with any questions.

Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment

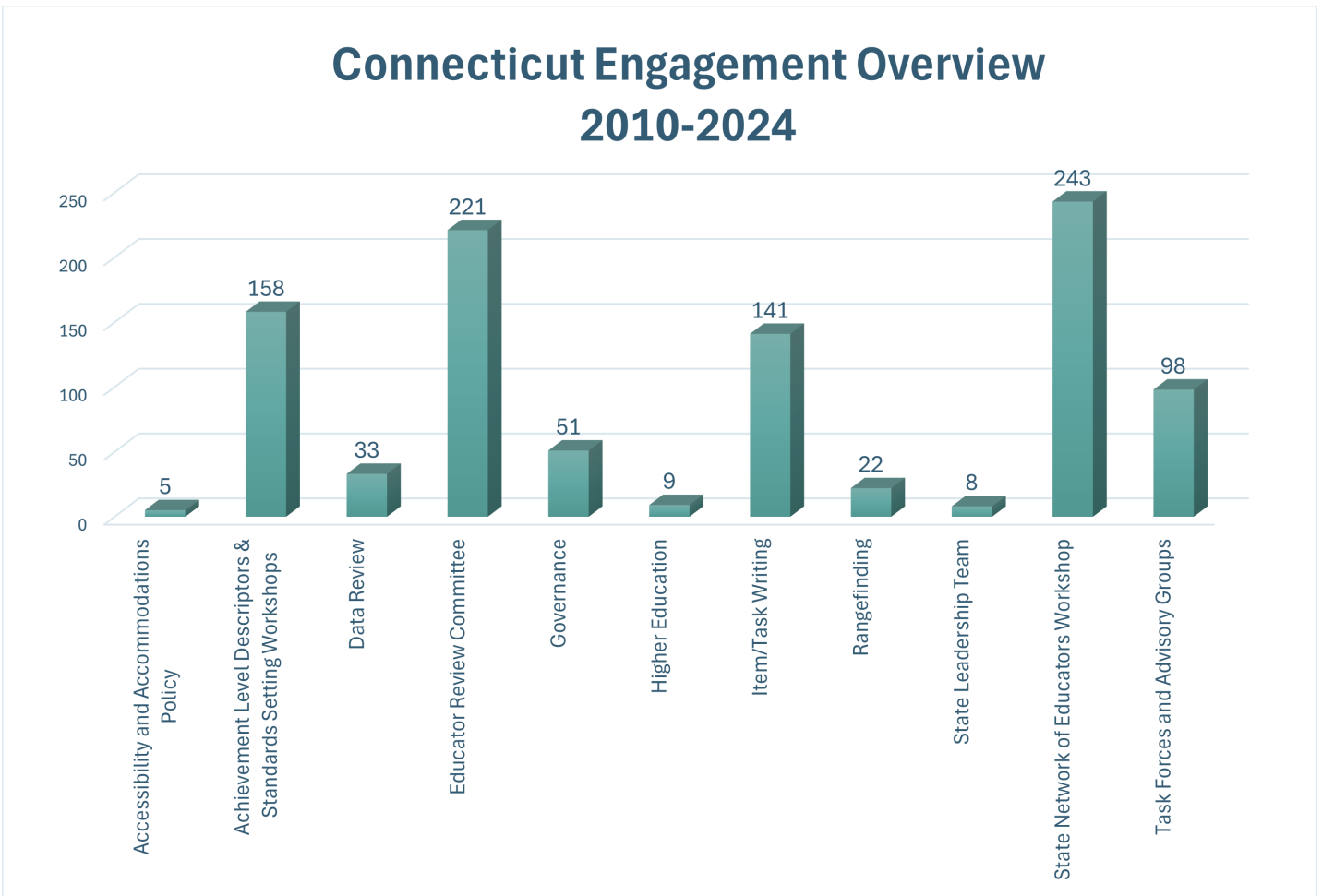
The Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment (CPFA) Individual Student Collection is open for the entry of 2023-24 CPFA results. Districts should enter, process, and certify all records by **June 14, 2024**. The CPFA file will be frozen **at 4 p.m. on July 18, 2024**. After that point, no data will be accepted and no changes to the data can be made. As a reminder, CPFA Individual Student Collection resources can be found on the [CPFA webpage](#).



Summative Assessment Updates

Nearly 900 Connecticut Educators Have Contributed to Smarter Balanced Since Inception! Thank you!

The following displays participant counts and reporting categories for educators that have contributed to the comprehensive analysis, development, and collaborative efforts of maintaining the Connecticut Smarter Balanced Assessment since 2010. Connecticut educators (893 in total) have contributed in major ways to the development of Smarter Balanced! The CSDE would like to thank these numerous educators for the contributions they have made over the years.



Student Assessment News: May 2024

Summative Assessment Updates

Shredding Secure Test Materials and Removing Secure Test Materials from Student Devices

Printed test items/passages, including embossed braille printouts and scratch paper, must be collected at the end of each test session and then immediately destroyed. If applicable, delete any test materials, items, or information from the computer and/or any assistive technology used by the student after testing is complete.

Medical Exemptions

In rare cases, there may be a student who experiences a medical emergency just prior to (or during) the testing window and the student is unable to receive hospital or homebound instruction due to the student's health condition. There is a process whereby the student may receive an exemption from testing due to the emergency nature of the medical condition, if the criteria for exemption are met. In Connecticut, the exemption determination for a medical emergency rests primarily on the following criteria: The student is unable to attend school and is medically/emotionally unavailable for homebound/hospitalized instruction for the entire testing window. Medical Exemption forms for the Smarter Balanced, the NGSS, and the Connecticut Alternate Assessments (CTAA/CTAS) are due by June 7, 2024. Please contact [Deirdre Ducharme](#) or [Katie Seifert](#) for more information.

Sensible Assessment Community of Practice Virtual Meetings

Join us on May 29, 2024, from 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. for the [Community of Practice Meeting on Using Smarter Balanced/NGSS Interim Results and District Sharing](#). This will be an overview of ways that these assessment results can be analyzed using the Centralized Reporting System (CRS). Connecticut educators will share their experiences and provide tips on analyzing interim results using the CRS. All previous sessions can be accessed on the [Student Assessment Training](#) page.

Special Populations Updates

Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment (CTAS) Reminders

- Submit all student ratings on the Student Score Worksheets through the DEI no later than May 31, 2024.
- If the student was not able to complete testing, enter any completed ratings in the DEI. Incomplete items should remain blank, and the test status should be maintained in a paused status.
- If the student refused to respond to the test, the TEA should make a note in the Teacher Activity/Scoring Notes section of the Student Score Worksheet. The TEA should open the Student Score Worksheet in the DEI and pause the test. Keep the test in paused status.
- The TEAs must save their hardcopy Student Score Worksheets for future reference.
- Follow your district /school guidelines for the maintenance of CTAS materials as they are used each year for eligible students.
- Remove any test related documents or materials from computers and assistive technology (if applicable).

Special Populations Updates

Reminder about the Data Entry Interface: Large Print, Braille, and the CTAS

When students complete testing using a large print or braille test booklet, please assign a trained teacher (or staff person) with TIDE permissions to transcribe all test responses into the Data Entry Interface (DEI) by May 31, 2024, for scoring and reporting. Refer to this guide: [How to Access the Data Entry Interface \(DEI\)](#) for more information.

The DEI is also used for teachers to submit student responses from the Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS) Assessment for eligible students in Grades 5, 8, and 11. Again, all student responses must be submitted to the DEI no later than May 31, 2024.

Additionally, please follow instructions included with the test kits to return all secure test materials once testing is completed. Test Administration Manuals are not secure and can be shredded locally.

LAS Links Score Release

Form E Individual Student Reports (ISRs) in English and Spanish are available in INSIGHT.

LAS Links trainings are located on the [Connecticut DRC LAS Links Website](#), under the heading 2023-2024 CSDE LAS Links English Learner Assessment Coordinator (ELAC) Training.

This training includes generating and interpreting On-Demand Reports.

- [Online Post-Test Activities \(Online Post-Test Activities Video\)](#)
- [DRC INSIGHT Portal User Guide](#)

For more information visit the [Guide to LAS Links Interactive Reports](#).

LAS Links Achievement/Mastery and Growth Reports

The LAS Links Achievement/Mastery and Growth reports on EdSight Secure have been updated to show the 2023-24 results. The results will be available on EdSight Public on May 28. The same results were provided to districts securely through the DRC vendor portal on April 30. To support with the interpretation of results, the CSDE created a video series titled [Using EdSight to Support Students who are EL/ML](#). Please email ctstudentassessment@ct.gov if you have any questions.

Ordering Screener Materials EL/ML

An [email](#) was sent to all ELACs on May 3, 2024, outlining English Learner/Multilingual Learner Identification Screening Materials for the 2024-25 School Year. This email is posted on CT DRC LAS Links Webpage for future reference.

CT SAT Survey and Virtual Debrief Meeting

To inform the 2025 CT SAT, a survey is available for stakeholders to respond to regarding the 2024 CT SAT. Please complete the survey using this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YG9QC6P>

A TEAMS meeting has been set up for **May 30th from 12:00-1:00pm** for the purpose of providing feedback on the 2024 CT SAT. You do not need to register for this meeting. You can use the link below to join the meeting on **May 30th at 12:00pm**.

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 281 102 962 020

Passcode: qrdNDR

Student Assessment News: May 2024

2023-24 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 Connecticut Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency (CAAELP), Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessment, Smarter Balanced Assessment, Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) in English language arts and mathematics, Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS) Assessment, 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 including the values for each of these 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.

If the status of any the first five fields changed from the value reported in the October PSIS 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 Record Layout 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 May 31, 2024, for Smarter Balanced Assessments, the Next Generation Science Standards Assessments, and the Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Assessments (CTAS and CTAA) for accountability calculations.

CSDE Updates Interim Assessment Block Analyses with 2022-23 Data

In March 2020, the Performance Office released an analysis of the relationship between "sustained participation" in the Smarter Balanced interim assessment blocks (IABs) and growth in terms of vertical scale score on the summative assessment (see April 2020 edition of Performance Matters). "Sustained participation" is defined as a student who participates in at least four different IABs in a subject area during the school year. [The March 2020 report](#) showed a positive relationship between participation and improved achievement. The CSDE replicated these analyses using 2022-23 data and found similar results. The Phase 2 report, "affirms that in both ELA and math, in all grades, and regardless of the performance level or socioeconomic status of the student, those who take four or more different IABs during the year generally demonstrate greater mean scale score gains than those taking fewer or no IABs." The [full report](#) is posted in the CSDE Research Library.

Student Assessment News: May 2024

Summative Assessment Calendar for 2023-24

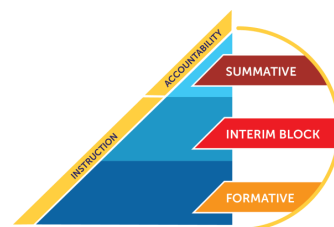
Assessment	Dates
Secure Browser for Smarter, NGSS, and CTAA	Please ensure you have updated the secure browser on each staff and student device for the 2023-24 school year. Please access the Technology Resources to support this process.
NGSS	February 5 – May 31, 2024 (Grade 11) March 25 – May 31, 2024 (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.

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.

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

