Student Assessment News

Connecticut State Department of Education • Performance Office

November 2022

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 Assessment (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.

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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**.

District Administrators Summative Assessment Training

In mid-January, the CSDE Performance Office will be delivering training on the spring 2023 administration of the Smarter Balanced, NGSS, CTAA, CTAS, and Collaborative for the Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency (CAAELP) Assessments. Each of the four repeated sessions cover general test administration policies and topics related to special populations. District Administrators (DA's in TIDE) are highly encouraged to attend, while other district personnel, such as English Language Assessment Coordinators (ELACs), Special Education Directors, or others are also welcome to attend. Below are the Summative Assessment Training session dates/times. Registration must be completed using the CSDE calendar.

Date	Morning Session	Afternoon Session
January 18, 2023	In Person – 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	In Person – 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
January 20, 2023	Virtual – 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Virtual – 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

"In-person" sessions will be held at 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT, in Plaza Rooms C/D. Paid parking is available at the Morgan Street garage or on the street. Registration is limited to 60 attendees for the in-person dates, **so please register early to guarantee a spot**. In the case of a weather cancellation on January 18, 2023, an email notification will be sent and attendees will have the option of attending a virtual session on January 20, 2023.

Connecticut SAT School Day Updates

Connecticut SAT School Day Accommodation Reminders

Students with an active Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan are eligible to receive accommodations on the Connecticut SAT School Day. Additionally, a variety of supports are available to identified English learners/multilingual learners (ELs/MLs). In preparation for the 2023 Connecticut SAT School Day, start by reviewing the accommodations and accessibility supports identified in your student's IEP/504 plan for existing Grade 11 students. SSD Coordinators should plan to meet with students in advance of testing to explain digital accommodation options, review accommodations to determine if there are any changes based on their IEP/ 504 plan, and submit any changes or new requests using the SSD Online. Students should understand how their accommodations/EL/ML supports function in accordance with timing regulations and test procedures.

Additional reminders:

- As SSD Coordinators review/create student accounts in SSD Online, they should select the disability category that is as closely aligned to the student's primary disability category listed on the IEP or as described by the 504 Plan. Selecting "Other" as a disability category will delay approval.

- The IEP or 504 Plan provides the "parental approval" to apply for accommodations; therefore, no additional permissions are required by the College Board.

- Students who elect to test without accommodations require a written statement signed by a parent/guardian or by the student, if over 18 years of age. These letters should be filed and maintained locally and are not sent to the College Board.

- The Accommodation Change Form should be faxed to the College Board to permanently remove accommodations for all College Board tests.

- If you are asked to submit/upload additional information when submitting requests in SSD, upload the 2022-23 Connecticut SAT School Day SSD Form Upload for Documentation Requests to bypass the system.

- Students must have approval of their accommodations on the SSD Online before taking the test with accommodations.

- ELs/MLs may be eligible for time and one-half (50% Extended Time). This support must be entered in SSD Online. With approval, students will receive the extended time on the entire assessment. The use of accommodations without College Board prior approval results in the cancellation of test scores.

- Students who were denied a request for accommodations for a previous College Board test should reapply for accommodations for the Connecticut SAT School Day if supported by their IEP/504 Plan. Questions regarding accommodations can be directed to Deirdre Ducharme at deirdre.ducharme@ct.gov.

Webinars to Support 2023 Digital Testing

Connecticut SAT School Day SSD Coordinator Overview - (Webinar Recording) - November 10, 2022

Connecticut SAT Digital Overview - (Webinar Recording) - November 3, 2022

The deadline to submit accommodations into SSD online for students with an active IEP, Section 504 Plan, and EL/ML Time and One-Half (+50%) Requests for the 2023 Connecticut SAT School Day is January 31, 2023.

Special Populations Updates

Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Updates

Refer to this email communication provided on October 5, 2022, to educators assigned a TEA user role in TIDE. It includes details related to the required online alternate assessment system training, the new alternate language proficiency assessment, and new procedures for the Early Stopping Rule. Please take a moment to review this brief Overview of the Connecticut Alternate Assessments for the 2022-23 school year.

Annual Online Training Available for Teachers Administering the Connecticut Alternate Assessments

The annual, online required teacher training for TEAs for the administration of CTAA and CTAS is available on the Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal. Here are a few reminders:

- TEAs must have a TEA user role in TIDE. This designation can only be set by the District Administrator for Testing.
- TEAs must have trained status to have the knowledge of (and access to) specific programs and processes related to the alternate assessments including but not limited to the Data Entry Interface (DEI). Trained status will automatically be activated on the TEA TIDE account once teachers complete the four training sessions and quiz (with a score of 80% of greater).
- We encourage TEAs to complete the required training by early December so that they have the qualifications to access the DEI, which is used to submit student's Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Eligibility Forms. Without trained status, the TEA will NOT be able to submit their student's eligibility form.
- Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Eligibility Forms must be entered in TIDE by the dates listed below.
- Refer to the helpful list of steps described in these resources to verify TIDE user status and training that is role specific: Teachers Administering the Alternate and District Administrators (DAs in TIDE).

Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Eligibility Form Submission Dates through the Data Entry Interface (DEI)	Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Eligibility Form Submission Phases
November 14, 2022 – December 23, 2022	Eligibility forms must be submitted into the DEI between **November 14 – December 23, 2022,** for the following students: • Students in Grade 11 who qualify for the Alternate Assessment System • Students in Grades K-12 who are dually identified as an English learner/ multilingual learner (EL/ML) and receive services under IDEA who qualify for the CAAELP and/or CTAA/CTAS.
November 14, 2022 – March 1, 2023	• Students in Grades 3-8 who qualify for the Alternate Assessment System • Any new student in Grade 11 or a newly identified EL/ML who qualifies for the CAAELP and/or CTAA/CTAS.
* Late submissions should be avoided. Any eligibility form submitted **after March 1, 2023,** will require the TEA to contact the Connecticut CAI Help Desk at 844-202-7583 to activate the Alt Flag Indicator. Without the activation of the Alt Flag Indicator, students will only have access to the standard assessments (Smarter Balanced, Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), Connecticut SAT School Day and the LAS Links Assessments).	

Special Populations Updates

Eligibility for CAAELP

The Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Eligibility Form and associated resources have been revised for the 2022-23 school year to include the CAAELP. Please share these resources, including the 2022 Connecticut CAAELP Participation Guidelines, with relevant staff. Any eligibility determination for the Alternate Assessment System conducted during a PPT for the 2022-23 school year will use the updated Alternate Assessment System Eligibility Form. This form is also included in the Connecticut Special Education Data System (CT-SEDS); however, **all eligibility forms must be entered in the Data Entry Interface (DEI) by a Trained TEA**. Please note the submission window specific to English learners/multilingual learners is **November 14, 2022 -December 23, 2022**. Information on teacher training and access to student practice tests are coming soon!

LAS Links Lead IT Training

Each district should designate and register a Lead Information Technology Coordinator to support the technology requirements for the LAS Links assessment for ELs/MLS in Grades K-12 before, and during the assessment window which is from January 3-March 3, 2023. There is one remaining webinar provided to support IT Coordinators.

Date	Title	Intended Audience	Register
December 5, 2022 10:00 AM	LAS Links IT Lead Training Webinar #2 (same content as #1)	District Level IT Coordinators Supporting LAS Links	contact DRC at LASLinksHelpDesk@datarecognitioncorp.com

Smarter Balanced and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessments: Setting Accommodations in TIDE

The window to submit accommodations for students with an active IEP or Section 504 Plan taking Smarter Balanced or NGSS Assessments will be from **November 14, 2022- June 2, 2023**. Refer to this resource for details: Managing Student Test Settings in TIDE.

New for the Class of 2023- Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program (CAAP)

Please visit the Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program (CAAP) webpage for details about CAAP and for links to the free applications for the schools and contact information for each school. Please email CSCU-CAAP@ct.edu with any questions.

For specific questions around CAAP resources for schools and districts, visit the CSDE's CAAP Resources for Schools webpage or contact SDE.AutoAdmit@ct.gov.

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Summative Assessment Calendar for 2022-23

Assessment	Dates
Enter Accommodations into SSD Online for Grade 11 students with IEP, 504 Plan or 50% extended time EL students	November 14, 2022 - January 31, 2023
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

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.

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