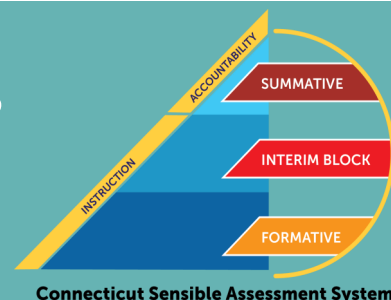




Student Assessment News

Connecticut State Department of Education
Performance Office



Connecticut Sensible Assessment System

September 2024

CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov

Welcome to the 2024-25 School Year

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

The Performance Office extends a warm welcome to our new and returning school administrators and educators, including those who will support the statewide testing program! We hope you had a restful and enjoyable summer and wish you a safe, productive, and fulfilling school year ahead. We are here to answer any questions you have and provide the resources you need throughout the school year. Please reach out to our staff anytime by phone or email. A full list of staff and contact information are available on [our website](#).

State Summative Assessment Results

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[Summative Assessment Updates](#)

On August 27, 2024, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) released chronic absenteeism data from 2023-24, along with results from the spring 2024 state assessments. The data shows that for the second year in a row attendance improved and chronic absenteeism rates declined. Overall mathematics and science performance also improved. Please see the [Connecticut Students Show a Second Year of Improved Attendance and Mathematics and Science Scores](#) Press Release for a full report on 2024 assessments.

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District Contact Information and User Accounts

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[Summative Assessment Calendar for 2024-25](#)

The Performance Office is currently reaching out to each district to confirm contact information for critical positions. The District Administrator for Testing in TIDE (DA) and the English Learner Assessment Coordinator (ELAC) are roles that are assigned by the district which allow the Performance Office to directly communicate expectations for statewide assessments. These designated individuals are expected to disseminate information to appropriate district staff, ensure training, and communicate concerns with the Performance Office. They are supported by the Performance Office staff and test vendors and are provided guidance and resources that support activities related to the testing program.

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

If you are a new District Administrator (DA in TIDE), please contact our office at ctstudentassessment@ct.gov if you require assistance setting up your TIDE account for Smarter Balanced, NGSS, and the Connecticut Alternate Assessment System. Additionally, District Administrators should delete accounts for inactive users. Please reference the [Test Information Distribution Engine \(TIDE\) User Guide](#) regarding viewing, adding, editing and deleting user roles.

Note: These updates do not apply to the Connecticut SAT School Day. A separate communication will be distributed to test coordinators to collect this information.

Summative Assessment Updates

Updated Documents for 2024-2025

While there are no new designated supports or accommodations for Smarter Balanced and Next Generation Science Standards Assessments, we have updated many of the commonly used resources and guides for the year ahead.

While not an exhaustive list, here are some of the most commonly referenced documents available on the portal and CSDE webpage that will help Planning and Placement/Section 504 Teams, test coordinators, and educators plan for the year ahead and prepare for interim testing, if applicable.

- [2024-25 Connecticut Summative Assessment System Policy Overview](#) This resource outlines the general policies of the Connecticut State Department of Education for all state summative assessments that are administered to Connecticut public school students.
- [Assessment Resources for Planning and Placement and Section 504 Teams Quick Guide](#) This resource provides Planning and Placement Teams and Section 504 Teams with information on accessibility features available on the State Summative Assessments for students with an Individualized Education Program or Section 504 Plan.
- [Accessibility Chart](#) The Accessibility Chart identifies a range of universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations available to students when accessing the Smarter Balanced and the NGSS Science Assessments.
- [Embedded and Non-Embedded Designated Supports for English Learners/Multilingual Learners](#) Students who are English learners/multilingual learners (ELs/MLs) may benefit from using designated supports when participating on the Connecticut statewide assessments. These designated supports are intended as a language support for students who have limited English language skills, whether or not they are identified as EL/ML or EL/ML with a disability.

Smarter Balanced and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Interim Assessments

The [Interim Assessments: Smarter Balanced and Next Generation Science Standards](#) is a one-stop guide to answer questions about test format, administration, scoring, reporting, universal tools, and designated supports and accommodations. Additional information can be found on the [CSDE Interim Assessment](#) webpage. As of August 27, 2024, two types of Interim Assessments are available. Teachers can choose between Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs) and Focused Interim Assessment Blocks (FIABs). FIABs focus on fewer assessment targets than most current IABs and are designed to measure smaller bundles of content to give teachers a better understanding of students' knowledge and academic performance. They provide teachers with precise next steps for instruction. In comparison, IABs measure a limited number of standards (or assessment targets) at greater depth and can support curriculum and instruction.

These tools can help classroom teachers identify strengths and weaknesses of an individual student or a small group of students on specific content and skills aligned to the Connecticut Core Standards (CCS). The scope, sequence, number, and timing of the IABs can be determined at the district/school/classroom level. There are a variety of universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations available to students on the interims. Take some time to review these accessibility supports and model with your students how to use them with the online platform. Refer to the [Description of Designated Supports and Accommodations for Smarter Balanced and Next Generation Science Standards Assessments](#) guide for a quick overview of accessibility supports.

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Summative Assessment Updates

2024-2025 Secure Browser Now Available

The updated [2024-2025 Secure Browser and installation materials](#) are now available for download on the Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal. Please work with your technology coordinators to ensure that testing devices are updated (and assistive technology is compatible with the Test Delivery Interface, if applicable) prior to administering the optional interim assessments. Refer to the [Technology Guide](#) for additional guidance on setting up test administrator and student devices and configuring networks.

Note: The Secure Browser version used last school year will be retired is now inoperable.

Special Populations Updates

CT-SEDS and TIDE

The CSDE preloaded K-12 student data from the Public School Information System (PSIS) into TIDE on August 22, 2024. This will allow districts to document designated supports in TIDE for students in the general education population (those students without Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or Section 504 Plans) who will participate on the optional interim assessments this fall and on summative assessments in spring 2025.

The CSDE also preloaded the IDEA and Section 504 demographic fields in TIDE for the following students:

- Those identified in the June 2024 PSIS Collection as IDEA; and
- Those identified in PSIS Registration testing demographics for Spring 2024 as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

This is a temporary solution utilized early in the school year (prior to district sign-off of Freeze Zero student demographic data in PSIS in October 2024) that enables designated supports and accommodations planned for the student's current grade of enrollment in an implemented and finalized plan to sync with TIDE for use on the optional interim assessments. More information on the Freeze Zero PSIS load will follow later this fall.

If accommodations weren't planned for the current grade of enrollment, and the student is expected to participate on interim assessments this fall, the team should amend or reconvene to determine appropriate accessibility supports for the 2024-25 school year. If you find a discrepancy with a student's accommodations or designated supports, contact the student's Case Manager. **All edits must be made through the amendment or reconvening process in CT-SEDS.** Supports for students with documented plans should never be manually entered (or batch uploaded) into TIDE.

Please follow the guidance in the [Documenting Designated Supports and Accommodations in TIDE](#) brochure for more details about documenting accessibility supports prior to interim testing. Additional information is included in the [CT-SEDS to TIDE Designated Supports and Accommodations FAQ](#).

Special Populations Updates

Connecticut Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency (CAAELP)

For the 2024–25 school year, the Performance Office will continue to administer the Connecticut Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency (CAAELP) to students in grades K-12 who are identified in the Public School Information System (PSIS) as English learners/multilingual learners (ELs/MLs) with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) who meet the eligibility criteria to participate in Connecticut’s Alternate Assessment System. Eligibility for the Connecticut Alternate Assessment System, including the CAAELP, requires the review, determination, completion, and verification of the [Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Eligibility Form](#) as part of the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) process in the Connecticut Special Education Data System (CT-SEDS).

Please note, the important dates below for CAAELP administration. This year the CAAELP window is earlier and is closely aligned to the LAS Links testing window. ELACs should work with Planning and Placement Teams (PPTs) to ensure students are correctly identified for either the standard LAS Links with accommodations, if eligible, or the CAAELP within their finalized and implemented plans by the date listed below. This is to ensure correct rostering and placement within each assessment.

English Learner/Multilingual Learner Communications and Resources

The following webpages may be accessed to support students identified as English learners/multilingual learners (ELs/MLs) in Grades K-12:

- [English Learner/Multilingual Learner Identification Screening Materials for the 2024-25 School Year](#)

LAS Links

- [English Language Proficiency Assessment-LAS Links](#)
- [Connecticut DRC LAS Links Website](#)

Connecticut Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency (CAAELP)

- [CSDE CAAELP](#) website
- [Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal CAAELP](#) website

Important CAAELP Dates

CAAELP Item	Dates
UPDATED CAAELP Testing Window	January 13 - March 7, 2025
Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Eligibility Form completed in CT-SEDS for correct rostering of CAAELP	Finalized and Implemented IEP in CT-SEDS by December 20, 2024
Early Stopping Rule Submission Window in TIDE*	December 2, 2024 - January 13, 2025
Domain Exemption Submission Window in TIDE*	December 2, 2024 - February 28, 2025
*Must be submitted by District Administrator (DA) in TIDE	

Information and communications related to CAAELP can be obtained by going to the Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal [CAAELP Resource](#) page and the [CSDE CAAELP](#) page.

Student Assessment News: September 2024

Special Populations Updates

English Learner Assessment Coordinator (ELAC) Trainings for LAS Links Administration

The 2024-25 English Learner Assessment Coordinator (ELAC) Trainings for LAS Links Administration will be conducted virtually on November 4, 5, and 6. Trainings are designed for two levels of experience:

- the new ELAC and the ELAC who has been in the role for only a few test administrations of the LAS Links and needs more detailed information; and
- the returning ELAC who is very familiar with Connecticut policies and procedures, and only needs a refresher with updates on any changes for the year.

Please register for the session you feel is the most appropriate based on your experience. **All ELACs should attend a training.**

Registration is now open! Register by accessing the date and session of your choice on the [CSDE Events Calendar](#). Once you register, you will receive a confirmation email with the meeting link. ELACs can invite staff to participate in the live training or share access to the training once it is posted.

English Learner Assessment Coordinator (ELAC) Training for LAS Links Administration		
Audience	Dates	Sessions
New ELAC Training	Monday, November 4, 2024	9:00-12:00 p.m.
Returning ELAC Training*	Tuesday, November 5, 2024	12:00-3:00 p.m.
Returning ELAC Training*	Wednesday, November 6, 2024	9:00-12:00 p.m.

Please be aware that ELACs **only need to attend one training**. Information from the training will be recorded, captioned, and posted as a video and a scripted PDF for those who are unable to attend or wish to revisit specific topics.

*Training is scheduled for 3 hours but will likely end earlier.

For additional information, please contact:

- EL/ML Identification, Standards, and Programs: Megan Alubicki Flick Megan.Alubicki@ct.gov
- EL/ML Data, Accountability, and Growth Model: Michael Sabados Michael.Sabados@ct.gov
- EL/ML Assessment and Appeals: Cristi Alberino Cristi.Alberino@ct.gov
- EL/ML Accommodations: Katie Seifert Katherine.Seifert@ct.gov

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Summative Assessment Calendar for 2024-25

2024 - 25 State Summative Assessment Calendar

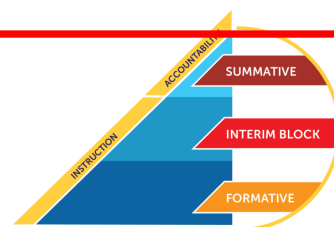
Content Area(s)	Assessment	Grade(s)	Testing Window
English Language Proficiency: Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing	LAS Links	K-12	January 2 - March 7, 2025
	Connecticut Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency (CAAELP)	K-12	January 13 - March 7, 2025
English Language Arts (ELA) & 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 6, 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.

Registration for the 2024 Performance Matters Forum (PMF) is now open! Please forward this message to all district and school staff who plan to register for the 2024PMF scheduled for **October 10, 2024, at the Connecticut Convention Center from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** This year's conference will feature sessions on topics such as alternative programming, assessment, educational research, literacy, multilingual learners, postsecondary readiness, school climate, and student and family engagement. All attendees should complete the [Registration Form](#) by **Friday, October 4, 2024.**

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

