



STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

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

June 20, 2019

860-713-6860



Summative Assessment Results for 2018-19

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

[2019 PSAT for Alliance/CTECS Districts and 2020 AP Fees for Students from Low-Income Families](#)

[College Board Opportunity Scholarship Supplemental Funding](#)

[Performance Matters Forum](#)

[Special Populations Updates](#)

[Monitoring Students Participating in Alternate Assessments](#)

[Assessment Calendar for 2019-20](#)

[Register for Email Updates](#)



Secure access is available for districts to their own preliminary Smarter Balanced and Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) results from 2018-19. These results can now be retrieved through the Online Reporting System (ORS) by authorized users. Though most tests have been scored, a few may still be outstanding if tests were administered close to the end of the window on June 7, 2019. Those results will be added to the system in the coming weeks as they are scored.

Aggregate results for all districts, schools, and student groups, are expected to be available through EdSight in late August.

As a reminder, since this was the first year of the administration, there are no performance results for the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessment or the Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment (CTAS) until standards are set this summer.

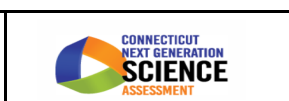
The ORS users can contact the American Institutes for Research (AIR) Help Desk at 844-202-7583 for assistance with logging into the system. Users may also contact the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Performance Office staff at [CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov](mailto:CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov) with any questions.



2019 Administration Appreciation and Feedback

Thank you for your efforts regarding the 2019 state assessments. The CSDE appreciates the work done by all involved in the administration of the Connecticut SAT School Day, Smarter Balanced, NGSS, CTAA, and CTAS Assessments.

The CSDE welcomes feedback from districts and schools about the 2019 administration. Two surveys are available to complete. A [survey](#) about the administration of the **Connecticut SAT School Day** is available, and a [survey](#) about the **Smarter Balanced, NGSS, CTAS and CTAA** is also available. Each survey will take approximately 5 minutes to complete.



**STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS**  
**June 20, 2019**

**2019 PSAT for Alliance/CTECS Districts and 2020 AP Fees for Students from Low-Income Families**

The CSDE will cover the cost for the October 16, 2019, administration of the PSAT for Grade 11 students who attend Alliance Districts and the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS). Additionally, the CSDE and College Board will cover the entire cost of the 2020 Advanced Placement® (AP) exam fees for all students from low income families who attend public school in Connecticut.

The CSDE has a process with the College Board to direct bill the CSDE for Grade 11 students from low income families who take the October 2019, PSAT from Alliance districts and the CTECS. Schools don't need to do anything other than test the Grade 11 students and the CSDE will be billed. **Please make sure that Grade 11 students properly grid their year of graduation (YOG) on the PSAT answer sheet. Mis-grids and blank YOG will result in your school getting billed for those students.** Please order the exams as you would normally do. Contact [Michelle Rosado](#) with any questions.

For 2020 AP testing, AP coordinators will now order tests for students in the fall 2019 for 2020 exams. In 2020, AP coordinators will have the opportunity in the AP Registration and Ordering site (APRO) to indicate students' low income status, thus avoiding having to do this twice (as is currently the practice, once during the test ordering and once during the pre-administration activities). Please visit the [College Board's AP Central](#) for more information.

 **College Board Opportunity Scholarship Supplemental Funding**

On June 14, 2019, [Governor Lamont announced](#) that the CSDE has teamed up with the College Board to launch a supplemental pool of scholarship funds available to Connecticut students from lower-income families starting with the class of 2020. As of June 1, 2019, Connecticut students from lower income families who join the national College Board Opportunity Scholarships program are eligible for an additional \$40,000 in scholarships per year.

The College Board has committed \$25 million over five years to the new program and has already awarded over \$1 million in scholarships to more than 1,000 students across the country, including 15 in Connecticut.

Rooted in research, the College Board Opportunity Scholarships program is a first-of-its-kind national scholarship program open to all students that lays out the six most important steps on the path to college. By completing each step, students earn a chance for scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,000. Doing all six steps will earn students a chance for \$40,000 for their college education. The additional scholarships available to Connecticut students will be awarded monthly through random drawings among all eligible students, beginning with the class of 2020. All students can earn opportunities for scholarships by completing any or all of the following steps:

- Building a college list;
- Practicing for the SAT;
- Improving their SAT scores;
- Strengthening their college list;
- Completing the FAFSA; or
- Applying to college.

Please share this information with your students from the class of 2020. More information about the College Board Opportunity Scholarships can be found at [cb.org/opportunity](http://cb.org/opportunity)



**STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS**  
**June 20, 2019**

### Performance Matters Forum– Save the Date and Call for Proposals

District/school leaders, data managers, data-entry staff, and informational technology (IT) staff should plan to join the CSDE Performance Office on **October 17, 2019**, at the [Red Lion Hotel](#), 100 Berlin Road, Cromwell, CT. The Performance Matters Forum (PMF) will be a half-day conference that offers sessions highlighting best practices focused on the following five topic areas:

- Data Collection;
- Assessment;
- EdSight;
- Accountability; and
- Research/Evaluation.

The CSDE is seeking school and district teams to present at the PMF. Please share your best practices that use data, information, and research from the Performance Office. [Please submit your proposal no later than June 28, 2019](#). You will be notified by July 28, 2019, if your proposal is selected. Contact [Michelle Rosado](#) if you have any questions.

### Special Populations Updates

#### Reminders for Handling Secure Test Materials: Smarter Balanced Assessments and Next Generation Science Standards Assessments

Now that the assessment season has come to a close, please communicate with your testing coordinators to ensure the proper handling of any remaining hard-copy test materials. Shred any remaining test manuals and scrap paper. Return Large Print or Braille test booklets, student response sheets (if applicable), and standard test booklets that accompanied the Large Print/Braille test materials using the package label provided with the shipment of test materials earlier this spring.

#### Connecticut Alternate Assessments for Mathematics and English Language Arts

The CTAA are secure tests, therefore, any printed documents such as the Directions for Test Administration, printed PDFs of both the CTAA ELA and CTAA Math, student-login information, scratch paper or notes **must** be securely destroyed.

#### Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment

The CTAS is a non-secure test and should be used throughout the school year for instruction/assessment. Do not shred any of the CTAS Performance Tasks or Resources, as these materials should be used for at least the next 2 years. The materials should have the **Published Fall 2018** on the title pages. Take time to ensure that all Performance Task Activities and Resources are complete and organized for use in the fall of 2019. You can replenish any missing materials by downloading the [CTAS materials](#) posted to the Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal.

If you have any questions about the handling of any test-related document, please contact the CSDE Performance Office at 860-713-6860 or the Connecticut Help Desk at 1-844-202-7583.



## STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

June 20, 2019



### Monitoring Students Participating in Alternate Assessments

In a [memorandum dated June 13, 2019](#), the CSDE provided information related to the participation of students taking Connecticut alternate assessments (the Connecticut Alternate Assessment - CTAA for reading/language arts and mathematics and the Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment - CTAS for science). The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) allows for alternate assessments for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities provided the total number of students assessed does not exceed 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the state who are assessed in each subject (reading/language arts, mathematics and science). States who administer alternate assessments to more than 1.0 percent of all assessed students in reading/language arts, mathematics and science are considered out of compliance with ESSA. The memo details the actions the CSDE is incorporating to assist in the appropriate identification of students who are eligible to participate in alternate assessments.



### Summative Assessment Calendar for 2019-20

Assessment	Dates
English Language Proficiency LAS Links	January 2 – March 6, 2020
Connecticut SAT School Day	<p><b>Primary Test Dates:</b>  <b>March 25, 2019 or April 14, 2020</b>                      (Based on school selection)</p> <p><b>Makeup Dates:</b>  <b>April 28 and 29, 2020</b></p>
NGSS Assessment	<p><b>February 3 – June 5, 2020 (Grade 11)</b>  <b>March 23 – June 5, 2020 (Grades 5 and 8)</b></p>
Connecticut Smarter Balanced	March 23 – June 5, 2020
Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment - CTAS	(Upload Window for Submission through the DEI) <b>March 23 – June 5, 2020 (Grades 5, 8, and 11)</b>
Connecticut Alternate Assessment - CTAA	March 23 – June 5, 2020

The first national [SAT validity study](#) for the redesigned SAT was completed in May 2019. It is based on data from more than 223,000 students across 171 four-year colleges and universities. Results show that while SAT scores and high school GPA (HSGPA) are both related to first year college GPA (FYGPA), using SAT scores in conjunction with HSGPA offers a more complete prediction of FYGPA than either measure individually.

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