



Student Assessment News

Connecticut State Department of Education • Performance Office

June 23, 2020

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

Cambium Assessment

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As a reminder, on December 31, 2019, Cambium Learning Group, Inc. (Cambium Learning), completed its acquisition of the American Institutes for Research (AIR) Assessment, the student assessment division of AIR. As a result, districts will continue to see the name, Cambium Assessment Inc., in association with the activities related to the administration the Smarter Balanced Assessment, the Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS) Assessment, the Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA), and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessment. Nothing will change in terms of the district, school, or student interaction with the vendor and the systems used for the assessments other than the appearance of the new name on publications, etc. Cambium Assessment Inc., will be executing the remainder of these assessment contracts.

As a result of this transition, please note the following changes.

Update your bookmarks to the new link for the Connecticut portal:

<https://ct.portal.cambiumast.com/>

Note the **new email address** to access the Connecticut Help Desk:

Connecticut Help Desk

Cambium Assessment

1.844.202.7583

cthelpdesk@cambiumassessment.com

Portal Survey

To assist in providing services to Connecticut districts, Cambium Assessment Inc. is in the process of evaluating users experience with the Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal to access resources and systems to successfully administer state assessments such as Smarter Balanced, NGSS, CTAS and CTAA. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) wants your feedback and also to know what is working well and what can be improved.

Please click on this link to complete the survey:

<https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5612885/State-Assessment-Portal-Feedback-Survey>.

The survey should take about seven to ten minutes to complete and should be submitted no later than **June 30, 2020**. The CSDE welcomes feedback from district administrators, school coordinators, teachers, proctors, and parents. If you have any questions regarding the survey or need assistance, contact the Cambium Assessment Portal Survey Help Desk number 877-206-7039.



Connecticut Alternate Assessment



Connecticut
Alternate
Science
Assessment



Connecticut SAT School Day



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Special Populations Updates

Recognizing that some districts are conducting Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meetings for the 2020-21 school year, the following resources are available. These two documents may be helpful:

[2020-21 Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form](#)

[Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Participation Guidance for Planning and Placement Teams](#)

Other resources are being updated and will be posted soon. Questions may be directed to Janet Stuck at janet.stuck@ct.gov or Deirdre Ducharme at deirdre.ducharme@ct.gov.

Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Training Required for Teachers Administering the Alternate

All Teachers Administering the Alternate (TEAs) who will be administering the alternate assessments, regardless of previous training status, will need to participate in the required Alternate Assessment System Training, accessible online via the CSDE Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal. The TEAs who participate will be certified to administer the CTAA and the CTAS after completing the Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Training required for TEA sessions and passing the associated quiz with a score of at least 80 percent. District Administrators (DAs) listed in TIDE will be notified via the Student Assessment News when this required training is available in September.

Data Entry Interface (DEI) Alternate Assessment Eligibility form Submission Deadline	Student Subgroups
January 15, 2021	Students in Grade 11; and Dually identified students (those who are special education and an English learner) in Grades 3-8 and 11
February 15, 2021	Students in Grades 3-8; and Extended deadline for new Grade 11 students
June 4, 2021	DEI closes for the spring 2021 assessment window

Educators must make every effort to meet these specified deadlines. Students new to the Connecticut public school system after February 15, 2021, who are determined eligible for the alternate assessment system may submit the Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form after these established due dates, prior to testing. When the Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form is submitted after these established due dates, the District Administrator (DA in TIDE) **must** contact the CSDE (860-713-6860) or the Connecticut Helpdesk (1-844-202-7583) to request the activation of the Alternate Assessment Indicator in TIDE. Additional Resources are:

[Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form Letter](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions and Answers about the Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form](#)



Connecticut Alternate Assessment



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Fall 2020 SAT

In light of the cancellation of all state summative assessments for the 2019-20 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, current Grade 11 students could unfortunately not take the Connecticut SAT School Day in March/April 2020. However, to ensure that these students have access to an SAT exam at no-cost to them, the CSDE has made arrangements with the College Board so ONLY current Grade 11 students (Grade 12 in fall 2020) can take the SAT in fall 2020, either during a weekend or a school day administration. This weekend or fall SAT School Day would be an *optional* test for students. There are no state requirements for having students take this test. **This is not a rescheduling of the Connecticut SAT School Day.**

A [Question and Answer document](#) is available on the Connecticut SAT School Day web page: <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Student-Assessment/SAT/Connecticut-SAT-School-Day/Related-Resources>. Please contact [Michelle Rosado](#) if you have any questions.

Governor's Summer Reading and Math Challenge

The CSDE is proud to announce the 2020 Summer Learning Challenge series with the launch of the:

- [2020 Governor's Summer Reading Challenge: Imagine Your Story](#); and
- [2020 Commissioner's Summer Math Challenge: Mathematics: The Key to the Future](#).

Designed to engage students in learning over the summer, participation in the 2020 Summer Learning Challenge series will assist students in accelerating their learning and preparation for the upcoming school year. Schools will have an opportunity to be recognized through participation in the individual challenges.

In addition to the Summer Reading and Math challenges, the CSDE will offer subsequent challenges pertaining to a variety of topics engaging all learners in the areas of Biliteracy, Career and Technical Education, Connecticut History/Social Studies, Science and Journalism.

Visit the dedicated [Summer Learning Challenge Webpage](#) for additional information pertaining to the 2020 Summer Learning Challenges.



Like you, the Performance Office staff is working from home. We appreciate your continued effort to support Connecticut's students. Recognizing that you are managing previous and new expectations, as well as additional responsibilities we want to remind you that we are here to help. Please reach out by email to the [Performance Office staff](#). We also encourage you to visit the [CSDE's web site](#) for continually updated information for educators and families regarding COVID-19 updates and resources. Select the blue boxes for access to live and recorded webinar series for families and educators.

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Tools for Teachers

[Tools for Teachers](#) is the new home for formative assessment supports from Smarter Balanced. The website is an easy-to-search collection of instructional resources that support the [formative assessment process](#) and are designed to save teachers time. It replaces the Digital Library, which was decommissioned in May 2020.

A few of the features include:

- recommendations on next steps based on interim assessment results;
- high-quality resources aligned to learning standards;
- formative assessment strategies embedded in every resource; and
- accessibility instructional strategies.



Hundreds of educators from across the consortium developed, reviewed, and approved the resources. With the pre-view release, districts may plan trainings to support their educators when school begins. The grand opening of Tools for Teachers is in September 2020 and will include more resources and enhanced functionality.

Tools for Teachers is designed to support educators and save them time, which will be even more important when school starts again this fall. Hear from [educators in this video](#) on how Tools for Teachers supports them in the classroom.

Please visit SmarterToolsforTeachers.org to explore the new home for educator-created lessons, activities, strategies, and professional development to help tailor instruction and boost learning.

Timely/Accurate Calendar for Spring 2020

Each year, the CSDE Performance Office publishes the *Summary of Timely/Accurate Due Dates & Freeze Dates* resource. This resource displays all the Performance Office data collections and testing windows for most test administered by the Performance Office.

In light of the waivers received by the CSDE due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some dates have been adjusted while other collections have been cancelled. Please see the [updated 2019-20 Summary of Timely/Accurate Due Dates & Freeze Dates](#). This revised resource has a new column entitled "Spring 2020 Update" that outlines important changes to data collection windows. If you have any questions, please direct them to keryn.felder@ct.gov.

Grade 11 NGSS Assessment Scores on ORS

A small number of Grade 11 students completed testing for the NGSS Assessment prior to school closures in March. For these students, scores are reported on the [Online Reporting System](#).

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.

