



STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

September 4, 2019

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)  
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2019 Connecticut SAT School Day Results on EdSight

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

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Aggregate results from the 2019 Connecticut SAT School Day for the state, districts, schools, and student groups is available on EdSight at: <http://edsight.ct.gov>. Student-level results are also available to authorized users through [EdSight Secure](#).

The 2019 LAS Links data is also available on EdSight including achievement, mastery and growth. In addition, the 2019 LAS Links data has also been uploaded to EdSight Secure so that districts can analyze individual student results. The achievement report now includes student growth targets. A new tool, the LAS Links Growth Trajectory report is also available.

If you have any questions, please e-mail the EdSight helpdesk at [EDSight.SDE@ct.gov](mailto:EDSight.SDE@ct.gov).



AP Exam Ordering and Fee Waivers

For 2020 Advanced Placement® (AP) testing, AP coordinators will now order tests for students in the fall 2019. It is important that all schools set up their AP Registration and Ordering (APRO) system asap because this is how AP exams will be ordered. **The deadline to order is November 15, 2019.** Setting up the APRO is also a necessary step for teachers and students to begin accessing the new AP resources and supports.

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and College Board will cover the entire cost of the 2020 AP exam fees for all students from low income families who attend public school in Connecticut. The AP coordinators will indicate in the APRO site a student’s low income status.

Please visit the [College Board’s AP Central](#) for more information.



An updated [Photo Directory of the Performance Office](#) is now available. The directory is organized by unit. Feel free to reach out to staff members directly for any technical assistance.

The Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) will be down for maintenance beginning September 11 and will return online September 19.

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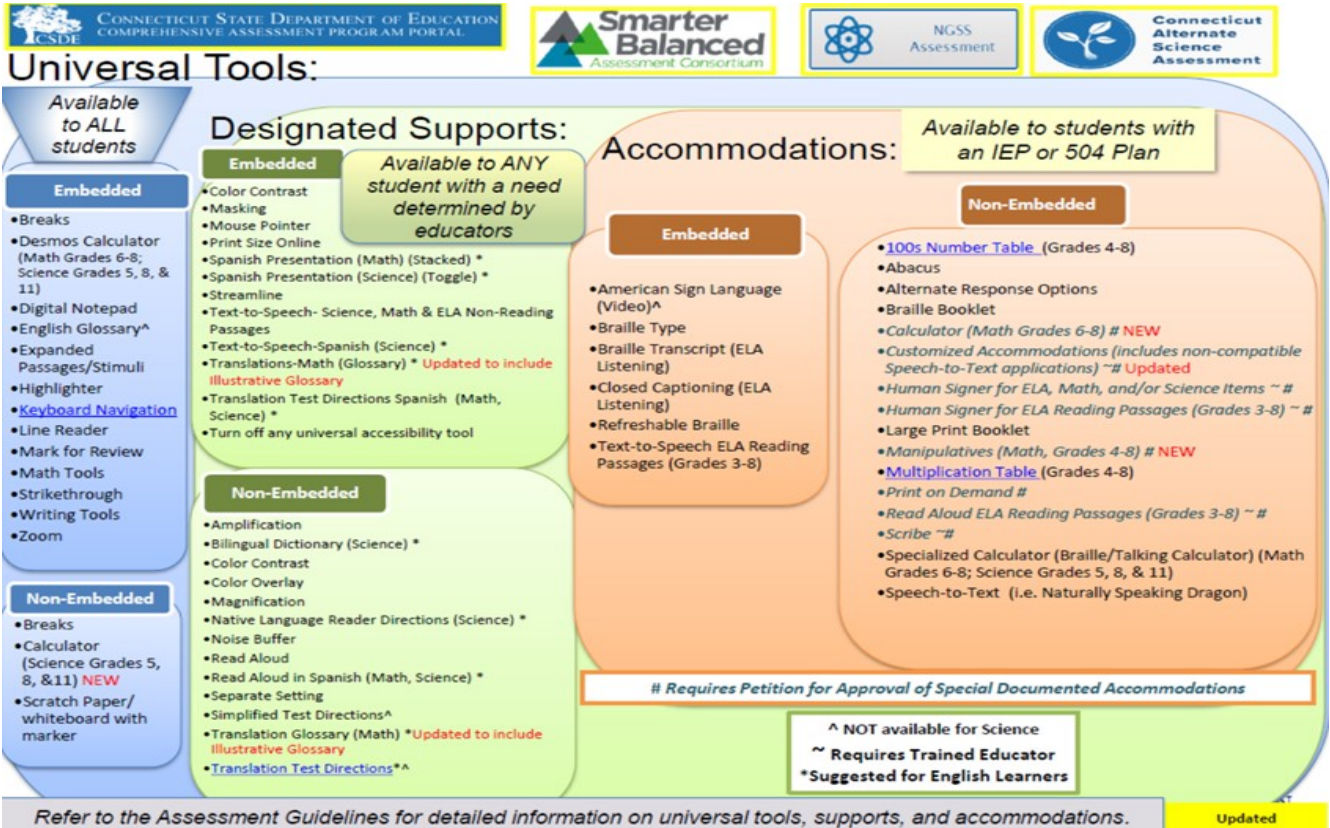
**NEW** Special Populations Updates

Many of the special population’s resources that districts rely on for supporting students with 504 Plans and Individual Educational Programs (IEPs) have been updated and are available for the school year ahead. The Performance Office is excited to share updates related to new supports and accommodations for Smarter Balanced Assessments, as well as updated processes for ensuring that only students with documented evidence of a significant cognitive disability participate in Connecticut’s Alternate Assessment System.

**What’s New for Designated Supports and Accommodations for Smarter Balanced and NGSS?**

In an effort to get a head start on providing all students with the most appropriate tools and supports when participating on the optional Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments and spring summative assessments, refer to the updated [2019-20 Accessibility Chart](#) (see Figure 1) and [Test Supports/Accommodations Form](#) available on the CSDE Web site and [Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal](#). The Performance Office encourages teachers and test coordinators to plan early when determining the types of supports and accommodations their students may need. Refer to most recent 504 Plans and Page 8 of IEPs to ensure that appropriate supports and accommodations are identified and submitted through the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) system this November. For students who need additional accessibility to assessments such as the use of a Read Aloud of the Smarter Balanced English language arts (ELA) Reading Passages or use of a Scribe, please contact the Performance Office, as early as possible to apply for Special Documented Accommodations. More information on this process will be provided in the months ahead.

**Figure 1. 2019-20 Accessibility Chart**



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Special Populations Updates (continued)

**Connecticut Alternate Assessment System- New Eligibility Form for 2019-20**

In the August 21, 2019, [letter](#) details were communicated about the replacement of the Learner Characteristics Inventory with the [Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form](#). Effective immediately, trained Teachers Administering the Alternate Assessments (TEAs) and Planning and Placement Teams will use the new form to determine eligibility for student participation in Connecticut’s Alternate Assessment System. Forms must be submitted through the Data Entry Interface (DEI) in order to register a student for participation. To facilitate this transition process, please refer to the following resources:

- [Frequently Asked Questions and Answers about the Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form](#)
- [2019-20 Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Transition from the Learner Characteristics Inventory to the Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form](#)

**2019-20 Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form Deadlines**

The DEI will open on November 15, 2019, and close prior to the end of the assessment window in June 2020. It is recommended that the Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form be submitted through the DEI as soon as the PPT determines that a student meets eligibility criteria for participation in the Alternate Assessment System. To ensure that qualified students have access to the alternate assessments at the time of testing, the following deadline submissions were established:

Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form Submission into the DEI Deadlines	Student Subgroup
January 15, 2020	Grade 11; Dually identified (special education and English learner) Grades 3-8 and 11
February 14, 2020	Grades 3-8; Extended deadline for new Grade 11 students
June 5, 2020	DEI closes for the spring 2020 assessment window.

**Educators must make every effort to meet these specified deadlines.** The submission of the eligibility form through the DEI registers a student for the alternate assessment system. Without submission of the Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form, the student will not have access to the alternate assessments. **Reminder: Only CSDE trained teachers have the necessary permissions to enter the Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form into the DEI.**

**Translation Glossary for Math Available in Additional Languages**

Hmong and Somali are now available language options through the **Translation Glossary for Math**. Language supports, including the Illustrative Glossary, are available on the Smarter Balanced Practice Tests, as well as certain Interim Assessment Blocks. For more information, refer to the [Embedded and Non-Embedded Designated Supports for English Learners](#) brochure and the [Translation \(Glossary\) Embedded Designated Support](#) brochure available on the portal.

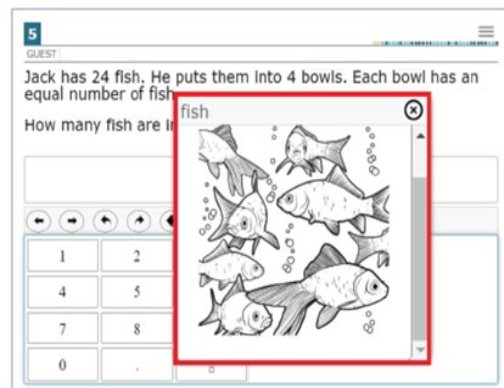




## Special Populations Updates (continued)

### Illustrative Glossary

An **Illustrative Glossary** is now available! The Illustrative Glossary is a designated support for students who have language support needs. Available for Smarter Balanced math, this language tool is available through the [Translations Math Glossary](#). When activated in the student's Test Settings and Tools in TIDE, students can access a visual representation of certain non-construct relevant terms. When there is a term for which a Glossary is available, there will be a faint gray dotted border around the term. When the student hovers the mouse over the term, it will provide an illustration of the term (as shown by the red box). Like other translation glossaries, the student may use the Illustrative Glossary as a standalone, or it can be combined with English.



### Ensuring TEA Access to the Connecticut Alternate Assessment Systems

Two overviews regarding the required Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) System Training are available: one for District Administrators (DAs in TIDE) and one for the teachers who will be administering the CTAA for ELA and Math, and CTAS (if applicable) during the 2019-20 school year. Information also includes how to manage and update the list of TEAs and ensure that all user accounts in TIDE are updated, so that teachers can access the required online training when it becomes available.

*Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Training – [Overview for District Administrators](#)*—describes the responsibilities of the DA in TIDE for the mandatory online course completed each school year, to provide qualified educators with essential alternate assessment materials and the permissions to administer these assessments. The DAs must follow these procedures to ensure the alternate assessments are administered by teachers qualified for this responsibility.

*Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Training – [Overview for Teachers Administering the Alternate](#)*—describes the responsibilities of the TEA and the procedures to ensure the alternate assessments are administered by teachers qualified for this responsibility.

### Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Training- Required for TEAs

All 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 in late September. 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 listed in TIDE will be notified via the Student Assessment News when this required training is available.***



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**Special Populations Updates (continued)**

**Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS) Assessments for Eligible Students in Grades 5, 8, and 11**

The CTAS is a non-secure test that is administered to eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities in Grades 5, 8, and 11. The CTAS was designed to be administered by the Trained Teacher Administering the Alternate (TEA) in a one-to-one test setting with the student. The CTAS is comprised of a series of Performance Tasks that must be administered by the Trained TEA over the course of the school year. The TEA rates student responses according to scoring and content guidance provided in the grade- and content-specific Performance Task documents. These student ratings are recorded on the Student Score Worksheet throughout test administration. Once the assessment has been completed, student ratings must be entered into the online Data Entry Interface (DEI) during the CTAS upload window (**March 23, thru June 5, 2020**). Ratings submitted in the DEI during the upload window will be processed for reporting.

The TEAs should take time to review the CTAS materials for students and determine appropriate times throughout the school curriculum to administer the Performance Tasks. The [Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment TEA Responsibility Checklist](#) for pre-planning activities suggested for the Trained TEA is available to help facilitate this process. The TEAs may access the [CTAS materials](#) on the CSDE Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal, or access the hard copies that are shared by the district.

Please direct any questions pertaining to student accommodations and the Connecticut Alternate Assessment System to [Deirdre Ducharme](#) or [Janet Stuck](#).

**Lexile and Quantile Measures on Smarter Balanced Reports**

To facilitate greater use of the Smarter Balanced summative assessment results by teachers, parents, and students, the CSDE has partnered with MetaMetrics, Inc. to provide Lexile® and Quantile® measures for all students based on their Smarter Balanced scale scores. These measures are already available through the Online Reporting System (ORS) on the student detail page and in the data downloads. They will be included in the 2019 Smarter Balanced Individual Student Reports (ISR) that will be sent to districts in September 2019 for dissemination to parents ([see Grade 5 sample report](#)). The Lexile® and Quantile® measures will also be available through the Smarter Balanced Achievement Report in EdSight Secure.

The Lexile® is a measure of both reading ability and text complexity. This measure can be used at <http://fab.lexile.com> to find books and materials that match a student's reading ability and interests. The Quantile® measure can be used at <http://quantiles.com> to find math activities that match a student's ability and goals. Parents and teachers can use these websites to find books, resources, and activities that can improve students' understanding of the content.

The CSDE is also in conversations with MetaMetrics, Inc. to offer a variety of professional learning opportunities this fall that will help educators to understand and utilize the Lexile® and Quantile® measures. Additional information will be disseminated in the future. For further questions, please contact [Cristi Alberino](#).



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### Performance Matters Forum Registration Open

District/school leaders and data managers should plan to join the CSDE Performance Office for the **Performance Matters Forum (PMF)** on **October 17, 2019, at the Connecticut Convention Center, 100 Columbus Blvd, Hartford.** [Registration is now open.](#) [Details about the sessions are available.](#) There is no cost to attend this event and parking will be validated. The PMF is being sponsored by the CSDE, AIR and The College Board. Questions can be directed to [Michelle Rosado.](#)



### Smarter Balanced Focused Interim Assessment Blocks

In the 2019-20 school year, Smarter Balanced will begin releasing new Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs) focused on fewer assessment targets than most current IABs. These [focused IABs](#) are designed to measure smaller bundles of content to give teachers a better understanding of students' knowledge and academic performance and provide teachers with precise next steps for instruction.

Interim Assessment Blocks measure a limited number of standards (or assessment targets) at greater depth and can support curriculum and instruction. On the contrary, the state summative assessment (e.g., Smarter Balanced, SAT) takes a broader sampling of all the assessment targets for a particular grade; it is designed to provide an efficient and reliable estimate of a student's overall performance for use in accountability, public aggregate reporting, and program evaluation; it is not intended to inform day-to-day classroom instruction.

The CSDE encourages the use of IABs and the soon-to-be-available focused IABs as tools that 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. These valuable, optional tools can be used in a variety of ways in the classroom to support the teaching of text annotation or note taking.

Teachers can use one item to model skills such as problem solving, close reading, or examining text features. Brief write blocks can be incorporated as a think-aloud activity or as a starting place for research, editing, or further writing activities. Interim items can be completed in a small group or whole class setting. Lastly, the IABs also support professional learning; teachers might work through difficult items during small learning community (SLC) meetings to better understand the expectations of the assessments and to determine how their own curriculum aligns to the CCS and to what is being measured.

Please contact [Cristi Alberino](#) if you have any questions about the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments.

[Quick Guide For Setting Up Your Online Technology](#) contains technology requirements and instructions that will assist technology coordinators in preparing computers and devices for online testing. The guide is organized by operating system (Windows, Mac, Android, Linux, ChromeOS).

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**October 2019 PSAT Updates**

The October PSAT/NMSQT ordering deadline is September 19. The CSDE has a process with the College Board to direct bill the CSDE for Grade 11 students who take the October 2019 PSAT from Alliance districts and the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS). Schools do not 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.**

Any school participating in October PSAT can participate in bulk registration through the College Board. Information about the benefits of bulk registration can be found on the [College Board's web site](#). Registration deadlines are available on the [College Board's Web site](#). Alliance Districts can participate in bulk registration for October PSAT for all grades for **no cost**. School staff will need an access code. Contact [Alan Bernstein](#) at the College Board if you need an access code or if you have any questions. **NOTE:** Schools participating in Connecticut SAT School Day do **NOT** order student labels using bulk registration through the College Board.

**Summative Assessment Calendar for 2019-20**

Assessment	Dates
<a href="#">The AIR secure browsers for the 2019-20 school year must be downloaded for all 2019-20 online tests</a>	Currently available
English Language Proficiency LAS Links	January 2 – March 6, 2020
Connecticut SAT School Day	<p><b>Primary Test Dates:</b>  <b>March 25, 2020 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

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.

