



STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

November 6, 2019

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)
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Lexile and Quantile Workshops Offered

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

[2018-19 NGSS Preliminary Results and Individual Student Reports](#)

[Connecticut SAT School Day Updates](#)

[Special Populations Updates](#)



[Assessment Calendar for 2019-20](#)

[Register for Email Updates](#)

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and MetaMetrics are offering two half-day workshops on the Lexile and Quantile measures which are now found on the Smarter Balanced Individual Student Report. The Lexile workshop explores the fundamentals of the Lexile Framework for Reading. MetaMetrics will provide an overview of how you can use Lexile measures in schools and classrooms to successfully manage your reading instructional programs and resources. It also includes an overview of the tools found in the Hub at <https://hub.lexile.com/>.

The Quantile workshop explores the fundamentals of the Quantile Framework for Mathematics. This workshop provides an overview of how you can use Quantile measures in schools and classrooms to successfully manage your mathematics instructional programs and resources. MetaMetrics will explain the fundamentals of the Quantile Framework for Mathematics and how to use Quantile measures in the classroom. This presentation also includes an overview of the tools found in the Hub at <https://hub.lexile.com/>.

Visit the [Lexile Framework for Reading](#) and the [Quantile Framework for Mathematics](#) web pages on the CSDE Web site for more information and resources.

Location	Lexile	Quantile
Trumbull Marriott 180 Hawley Lane Trumbull	December 3 from 8:30-11:30 REGISTER FOR LEXILE WORKSHOP	December 3 from 12:30-3 REGISTER FOR QUANTILE WORKSHOP
ITBD 185 Main Street New Britain	December 4 from 8:30-11:30 REGISTER FOR LEXILE WORKSHOP	December 4 from 12:30-3 REGISTER FOR QUANTILE WORKSHOP



Letter of Justification for School Districts Exceeding the 1.0 Percent Threshold

A [memo](#) dated November 1, 2019, was sent to Superintendents related to the justification for school districts exceeding the 1.0 percent threshold for students participating in the alternate assessment in 2018-19. Any school district exceeding the 1.0 percent alternate assessment threshold in either English language arts or mathematics must complete and submit the form titled "Justification for School Districts Exceeding the 1.0 Percent Threshold." This form should be submitted via e-mail to marlene.chameroy@ct.gov no later than **Friday, December 6, 2019**.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS
November 6, 2019

2018-19 NGSS Preliminary Results and Individual Student Reports

Secure access to the preliminary results for districts for the 2018-19 Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessment and the Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS) Assessment are available to authorized users through the Online Reporting System (ORS). Users can contact the American Institutes for Research (AIR) Help Desk at 844-202-7583 for assistance with logging into the ORS. **Individual Student Reports for NGSS and CTAS have been mailed to all districts.**

This is the first year of results from these new science assessments. Therefore, to assist with interpretation of scale scores, achievement levels, discipline scores, and disciplinary core idea performance, please see the [Frequently Asked Questions](#); a more comprehensive Interpretive Guide for these assessments will be released later. Final results for both the NGSS and the CTAS assessments will be released publicly through [EdSight](#) later in the fall. For questions about the science assessments, please e-mail CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov.

The [Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Test Administration Manual \(TAM\)](#) provides information for Test Examiners administering the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. This manual includes screenshots and step-by-step instructions on how to administer the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments online.

Connecticut SAT School Day Updates

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities, Section 504 and English Learner Students

The window to submit accommodations for students with an active Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan for the 2020 Connecticut SAT School Day will be from November 22, 2019, to February 4, 2020. Accommodations must be submitted through the [College Board's SSD Online](#) system.

2019-20 Connecticut SAT School Day Accommodations/EL Supports SSD Online Submission Dates		
IEP and 504 Plan Accommodations Window Opens	EL Window Opens	Accommodations Deadline
11/22/19	1/14/20	2/4/20

English learner (EL) students who require 50 percent extended time will be entered into the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) through an embedded link beginning on January 14, 2020, and ending on February 4, 2020. As a reminder, students using the 50 percent extended time EL support receive extended time on the entire assessment.

Special Population resources can be found on the [Connecticut SAT School Day Web page](#).

Connecticut SAT School Day Webinar

There will be a webinar for Connecticut SAT School Day Coordinators and SSD Coordinators regarding the **2020 Connecticut SAT School Day Administration Updates and Accommodations**. The webinar will be held on **November 13, 2019, from 2-3 p.m.** Please [register](#) in advance. The webinar will be recorded and posted.



STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS
November 6, 2019



Special Populations Updates

2019-20 CSDE English Learner Assessment Coordinator Training

The 2019-20 English Learner Assessment Coordinator (ELAC) Training will be held **November 19-21, 2019**, at the CSDE located at 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford. This training provides specific information for ELACs regarding their role and responsibilities, prior to, during, and after the administration of the LAS Links Assessment for students in Grades K-12 identified as English learners (ELs).

The ELACs registered with CSDE for the 2019-20 school year should have received an e-mail invitation from the CSDE Calendar System (TRUMBA) allowing them to register and attend one of the half-day training sessions.

Please note that if you represent a district, charter school, endowed academy etc., and have not yet updated your ELAC record for the 2019-20 school year, you will **not** receive an invitation to this training or have the ability to register.

English Learners Memo

On September 24, 2019, a memorandum titled [Supporting English Learners During the 2019-20 School Year](#) was sent to all registered English Learner Assessment Coordinators. This memo reminds ELACs about the LAS Links Assessment window, identifying the information technology (IT) coordinator to support the online LAS Links Assessment and other critical dates related to the assessment of English learners.

Important Special Populations Dates

DATE	ITEM
November 1, 2019	The online Connecticut Alternate Assessment Required Training for Teachers Administering the Alternate (TEAs) was made available on the Connecticut Portal.
November 13, 2019	Connecticut SAT School Day Webinar from 2-3. Register in advance.
November 15, 2019	Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) opens for the submission/upload of designated supports and accommodations. The Data Entry Interface opens for the submission of Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Forms.
November 19, 20, and 21, 2019	English Learner Assessment Coordinator Training Workshops
November 22, 2019	The College Board's SSD Online opens for the submission of accommodations for the Connecticut SAT School Day.
December 9, 2019	The Special Documented Accommodations window opens for all Smarter Balanced, NGSS and Connecticut SAT School Day Assessments.



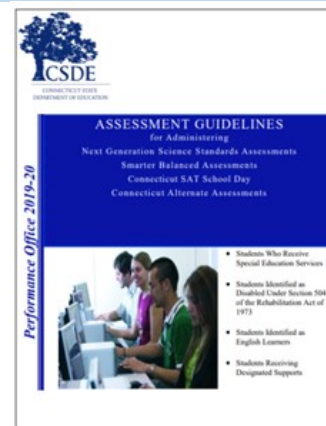
STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS November 6, 2019

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Special Populations Updates (continued)

Updated Assessment Guidelines Available

Most of the resources specific to supporting students in preparation for interim and summative assessments are currently available on the Special Populations [page](#) of the Student Assessment Web site and under the resources header of the [Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program portal](#). We are pleased to announce the recent publication of the 2019-20 [Assessment Guidelines](#) to both online platforms. If you are unfamiliar with this document, consider it the educator's "Go-To" for all things related to universal tools, embedded and non-embedded designated supports and accommodations for Connecticut's Assessment System (Smarter Balanced Assessments, the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessments, the Connecticut SAT School Day, and the Connecticut Alternate Assessment System). While the [Accessibility Chart](#) provides a list of these tools and accommodations, the Assessment Guidelines explains these supports in greater detail. It also explains the process for requesting a Medical Exemption or Special Documented Accommodations. Please share this valuable resource with your colleagues.



Quick Links to Important Resources:

[Test Supports/Accommodation Form](#)

Setting Designated Supports and Accommodations for Interim Assessments

[Manually Entering Designated Supports and Accommodations](#) [PDF]

English Learner Supports

[Translation \(Glossary\) – Embedded Designated Support](#) [PDF]

[Embedded and Non-Embedded Designated Supports for English Learners](#) [PDF]

Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form and Supporting Documents:

[Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form](#) [PDF]

[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](#)

Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Training Required for Teachers Administering the Alternate

All TEAs who will be administering the alternate assessments, regardless of previous training status, will need to participate in the **required** annual Alternate Assessment System Training, **accessible NOW online** via the [CSDE Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal](#). The TEAs who participate will be certified to administer the Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) and the Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment (CTAS) after completing the required annual training with a passing score of at least 80 percent. The online Connecticut Alternate Assessment Required Training for Teachers Administering the Alternate is available on the CSDE Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal.



STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS
November 6, 2019



Special Populations Updates (continued)

Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form

The Planning and Placement Team (PPT) makes decisions about the appropriate assessment selection for students with an IEP. These students are eligible to participate in the standard assessments (Smarter Balanced, NGSS and Connecticut SAT School Day) with accommodations. Additionally, universal tools and designated supports are available to students participating in Smarter Balanced and NGSS Assessments.

However, a very small group of special education students with significant cognitive disabilities are determined by the PPT to be eligible to participate in Connecticut’s Alternate Assessment System. The [Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form](#) is used by the PPT to determine eligibility. Once approved, eligibility forms are submitted into the Data Entry Interface (DEI) by the Trained Teacher Administrating the Alternate (TEA) to register the student to participate in the Alternate Assessments. The submission window for the DEI will open on November 15, 2019, and close on June 5, 2020. Prior to the opening of the DEI, PPTs/TEAs are encouraged to download and complete the hard copy eligibility forms as PPTs take place and submit a courtesy copy to the Director of Special Education and the District Administrator (DA in TIDE).

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.

Interim Assessments and Accommodations

If the Interim Assessments are administered prior to November 15, 2019, designated supports and accommodations must be manually entered through the Test Delivery Interface. Please refer to the [Manually Entering Designated Supports and Accommodations](#) brochure for specific details.

Special Documented Accommodation petitions are formally submitted to and reviewed by the CSDE for use on the summative assessments ONLY. While designated supports and accommodations entered into the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) test setting application may be available through the American Institutes for Research (AIR) online Test Delivery System for both summative and interim assessments, Special Documented Accommodations should not be requested for interim use.

Due to the varied purposes and administration practices for the interim assessments, the CSDE encourages districts to use discretion and professional judgment when providing accommodation that would typically be considered a special documented accommodation on the interims (e.g., human reader of ELA Reading Passages, scribe) because it may impact student performance, interpretation of test results, and decisions based upon these results.



STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS
November 6, 2019

The [Test Administrator \(TA\) User Guide](#) is designed to help users navigate the Test Delivery System (TDS), including the Student Interface and the Test Administration Interface, and help support Test Administrators manage and administer online testing for students.

Summative Assessment Calendar for 2019-20

Assessment	Dates
The AIR secure browsers for the 2019-20 school year must be downloaded for all 2019-20 online tests	Currently available
English Language Proficiency LAS Links	January 2–March 6, 2020
Connecticut SAT School Day	Primary Test Dates: March 25, 2020, or April 14, 2020 (Based on school selection) Makeup Dates: April 28 and/or 29, 2020
NGSS Assessment	February 3–June 5, 2020 (Grade 11) March 23–June 5, 2020 (Grades 5 and 8)
Connecticut Smarter Balanced	March 23–June 5, 2020
Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment - CTAS	(Upload Window for Submission through the DEI) March 23–June 5, 2020 (Grades 5, 8, and 11)
Connecticut Alternate Assessment - CTAA	March 23–June 5, 2020

The CSDE is seeking Connecticut high schools to participate in the [Summer Melt Study](#). The five-year study, also highlighted in the [August 2019 edition of Performance Matters](#), is funded by the U.S. Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences. High schools will work with AIR to administer a brief 15-minute online survey to high school seniors graduating in the spring of 2020 and the spring of 2021. No other data collection or school-level involvement is expected beyond the brief survey administration.

Please email David Blumenthal (dblumenthal@air.org) at AIR by Friday, November 15, if your high school is interested in participating. David can clarify any questions about this study.

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.

