



## STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

March 19, 2018

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

[CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov](mailto:CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov)

860-713-6860



### Connecticut SAT School Day Updates

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

[Advanced Placement Exam Updates](#)

[NGSS Updates](#)

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[Smarter Balanced, NGSS Field Test and CTAS Field Test Parent Letter](#)

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#### Make-up Test Materials Ordering Survey

All schools must order the materials that are required for make-up testing on April 24 and 25, 2018. Test Supervisors will receive an email from Michelle Rosado on March 20, 2018, that includes a link to an online survey to collect information about number of make-up materials required. The survey must be completed by Friday, March 23, 2018. **All schools must complete this survey even if the school has NO students participating in the make-up test.** We ask that only one survey be completed per school. Please contact Michelle Rosado if you do not receive this email.

As a reminder, schools will return all test books and used answer sheets after the March 21, 2018, test *BUT schools should keep any unused answer sheets (with or without labels) and manuals for the make-up administration.*

#### Fee Waivers

Eligible students who take the Connecticut SAT School Day can take advantage of the benefits of the College Board's fee waiver program that includes additional score sends and college application fee waivers. Schools will receive fee waiver cards for eligible students in late April 2018. More information will be shared soon.

#### Emergency Closure, Weather Delay or Closure

**If school has a delayed opening of 90 minutes or less**, contact Michelle Rosado at the CSDE immediately at 860-713-6748 to report the delay. Plan to test your standard and most of your nonstandard students. Move any students with 50 percent extended time to the makeup administration of April 24-25, 2018.

**If school has a delayed opening of more than 90 minutes**, contact Michelle Rosado at the CSDE immediately at 860-713-6748 to report the delay. Testing will need to occur on the makeup administration date of April 24-25, 2018.

**If school has an early dismissal**, you may test students if you have at least 4 hours of uninterrupted time. Move any students with 50 percent extended time to the makeup administration of April 24-25, 2018.

**If school is closed**, contact Michelle Rosado at the CSDE immediately at 860-713-6748 to report the closure. See page 58 of the Test Supervisor Manual for more information. Testing will need to occur on the makeup administration date of April 24-25, 2018.



Connecticut Alternate Assessment



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**Advanced Placement Exam Updates**

Students taking Advanced Placement (AP) exams are given a no-cost opportunity to send their scores to at least one college (per year) by marking the appropriate four-digit college code on the test administration form. The CSDE and the College Board encourage AP coordinators and teachers, as well as school counselors, to remind students of the importance of sending their AP scores to colleges regardless of their year of graduation, but particularly in senior year. Encouraging students to enter the four-digit code of the college or university of their choice is a best practice for all students taking AP exams. The ultimate reward for AP students, teachers, and their high schools can occur only after students send their AP scores on to a college or university. Even sophomores and juniors are encouraged to take advantage of no-cost AP scores sends, because colleges value the early demonstrated interest a student is showing when sending AP scores.

Additionally, the CSDE and College Board will cover the entire cost of 2018 AP exams for low-income students who attend public school in Connecticut. Please make sure to have AP coordinators in your schools correctly code the invoice from the College Board for tests for low income students so that the CSDE will be directly billed for these students. Please see the [College Board's AP Central Web site](#) for more information on what schools must to.



**NGSS Assessment Updates**

**NGSS Assessment Field Test Manual and CTAS Field Test Manual**

The 2018 [NGSS Assessment Field Test Manual](#) is available. This manual provides information for test administrators about testing activities. The 2018 [Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment \(CTAS\) Field Test manual](#) is also available. The manual provides information to guide Teachers Administering the Alternate (TEAs) and District/School Test Coordinators to prepare for and administer CTAS Field Test to eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities who were determined by a PPT to meet the criteria for an alternate assessment.

**Office Hours Webinars**

The CSDE will be hosting Office Hour webinars for **Smarter Balanced Assessment, Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Field Tests (Alternate and Census), and the Connecticut Alternate Assessment**. On the webinars, the CSDE staff and their partner vendor, American Institutes for Research (AIR), will provide brief, weekly assessment updates and will also be available for phone support. Below are the details of the Office Hours.

**Intended Audience:** Any district/school staff who may oversee state summative testing.

**When:** Every Thursday beginning March 22 until May 24, (except for April 12) from 3-4 p.m.

**Where/How:** Please register for each week here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/5278114698288158466>.



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**Special Populations Updates**

**Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) Secure Testing Materials**

The [Connecticut Alternate Assessment \(CTAA\) brochure](#) “How To Access and Download The CTAA Secure Testing Materials” provides instructions for how to access and download the CTAA secure testing materials from the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE). These grade- and subject-specific secure testing materials include **required** Directions for Test Administration and PDF test forms, which may be used for administering the CTAA to eligible students requiring this accommodation. The secure testing materials are available in TIDE to **District Administrators (DAs) and TEAs ONLY!**

**Learner Characteristics Inventory and Alternate Assessment Indicator**

The Learner Characteristics Inventory (LCI) is required for all eligible students participating in any alternate assessment. The LCI deadline for submission by the trained teacher into the Data Entry Interface (DEI) was March 16, 2018.

The deadline to submit the LCI was **March 16<sup>th</sup>**. The Alternate Assessment Indicator allows eligible students to access the required alternate assessments. The Alternate Assessment Indicator in TIDE will be set to “yes” for those eligible students who have a submitted LCI by March 16, 2018. This process will be completed by March 23, 2018.

If a student becomes eligible for the alternate assessment after the March 16<sup>th</sup> deadline the TEA should submit the LCI and then call the AIR Help Desk (1-844-202-7583) and provide the SASID for the student(s) and confirmation that the LCI has been submitted so that the Alternate Assessment Indicator can be set to “yes”.

**Students in PSIS who attend Out-of-State Facilities or In-State Non-Approved Non-Public Facilities**

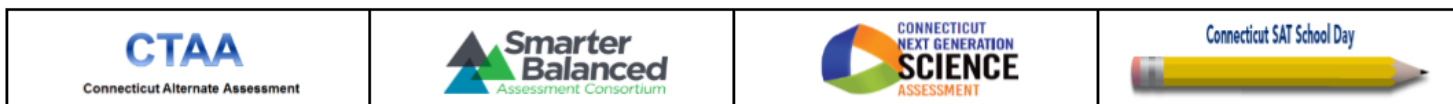
Connecticut public school districts are responsible to test students in the Public School Information System (PSIS) who are enrolled in out-of-state facilities or are enrolled in, in-state non-approved non-public schools. Information on how to administer the NGSS Assessment Field Test, NGSS Alternate Assessment Field Test, Smarter Balanced assessment and the Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) are included in the [Students in PSIS who attend Out-of-State or In-State Non-Approved Facilities](#) document. It is also required that districts test these students in Grade 11 who are enrolled in out-of-state or in-state non-approved non-public programs with the Connecticut SAT School Day or CTAA.

**TIDE Test Setting and Uploading Designated Supports/Accommodations**

The Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) Test Setting Web site remains open throughout the testing window in order to continue to add or modify student’s test settings for students taking the Smarter Balanced Assessments and the NGSS Assessment Field Test. For districts who plan to do a batch upload from their IEP system, a district needs to determine their own deadline at which time their final upload is submitted. Once that final upload has been completed, any additional test settings will need to be done directly in TIDE.

**Large Print or Braille for the NGSS Assessment Field Test**

All request for large print or braille booklets for the *NGSS Assessment Field Test* **MUST** be ordered directly from AIR by calling 1-844-202-7583. These students must also have these accommodations indicated on their test settings in TIDE.



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**Special Populations Updates**

**Training for Teachers Administering the NGSS Alternate Assessment Field Test in Grades 5, 8, and 11**

An e-mail was sent on March 5, 2018, to Trained Teachers Administering the Alternate Assessments (TEAs) regarding the upcoming 2017-18 NGSS Alternate Assessment Field Test in Grades 5, 8, and 11. Trained Teachers who have students eligible for the alternate assessment in these grades **must** participate in the new online Connecticut Alternate Science Test (CTAS) Training available in Schoology. This training module will be available on Schoology until April 25, 2018. Please take a moment to review the procedures to complete this training:

**Procedure to take the CTAS Training:**

- A. If you took the 2017-18 CSDE Alternate Assessment System Training, you may access training through your Schoology account.
- [Log in to Schoology](#)
  - Provide your username and password
  - ONLY review the PowerPoint in the folder labeled ***“The Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS)”***
  - Take the quiz for this PowerPoint (you may take it as often as needed to receive a minimum of 80 percent)
  - You will **NOT** receive notification indicating that you completed the CTAS Training, however your participation will be determined by your submitted quiz.
- B. If you did not take the 2017-18 CSDE Alternate Assessment System Training, you may access training through your Schoology account.
- Register for the [2017-18 CSDE Alternate Assessment System Training](#) on the SERC Web site
  - You may choose to take the entire course, which includes the CTAA **and** the new CTAS, or **ONLY** review the PowerPoint in the folder labeled ***“The Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS)”***
  - Take the quiz for this PowerPoint (you may take it as often as needed to receive a minimum of 80 percent)
  - You will **NOT** receive notification indicating that you completed the Alternate Assessment System Training or the CTAS Training, however, your participation will be determined by your submitted quiz.

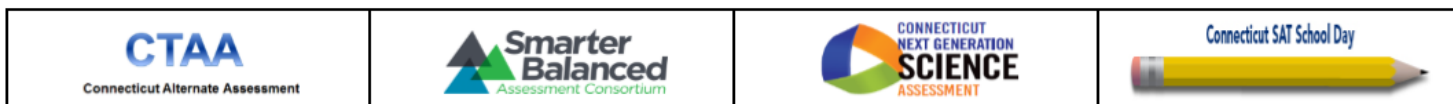
In addition to this training, more details about the administration of the CTAS Field Test were sent in the [March 16, 2018 memo](#) to District Administrators.

If you have any questions, contact the Student Assessment Office at 860-713-6860.



**Smarter Balanced, NGSS Field Test and CTAS Field Test Parent Letter**

The [2018 parent letter](#) for students taking the Smarter Balanced test and/or NGSS Field Test is available for districts. The letter can be modified to suit the needs of the district. A [2018 parent letter](#) is also available for parents of students taking the CTAA or CTAS.



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**Important Dates**

Event	Dates
The <a href="#">secure browsers for the 2017-18 school year</a> must be downloaded for all 2017-18 online tests	Currently available
Data Entry Interface (DEI)	Currently Open
Connecticut SAT School Day	Primary Test Date: March 21, 2018 Makeup Dates: April 24 and 25, 2018
NGSS Assessment Field Test	March 26-May 25, 2018—Grade 11 April 30-May 25, 2018—Grades 5 and 8
NGSS Alternate Assessment Field Test	April 30-May 25, 2018—Grades 5, 8 and 11 (Upload Window)
Connecticut Smarter Balanced	March 26-May 25, 2018
Connecticut Alternate Assessment	March 26-May 25, 2018

Want to find recent announcements regarding Connecticut’s assessments? Please visit the CSDE’s [Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal](#). You will find information about each assessment, as well as technology resources and information for students and families.

**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.

