



STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

November 27, 2018

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov

860-713-6860



District Administrator Workshops

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

[NGSS Interim Assessments](#)

[Connecticut Summative Assessment Blueprints](#)

[May 2019 AP Exams](#)

[Connecticut Educators Participate in Smarter Balanced Review Meetings](#)

[Special Populations Updates](#)

[Summative Assessment Calendar for 2018-19](#)

[Register for E-mail Updates](#)

District Administrator (DA) Workshops are scheduled for January 23, 24, and 25, 2019, at the [Institute of Technology and Business Development \(ITBD\) in New Britain](#). There will be five sessions to choose from and each session will repeat the same content. The session on January 24, from 12:00-3:30 p.m. is for **NEW** DAs. **Training will be provided for the administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessments for English language arts/literacy and mathematics, NGSS, Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment (CTAS), and the CTAA for English language arts and mathematics.** Since 2019 will be the first administration of the NGSS and CTAS, the session will provide participants in-depth information on administering these assessments.

District Administrators will be provided with information to support training School Coordinators and Test Administrators. Registration is limited to **two (2)** attendees per district.

Register for January 23, 2019, from 8:30-11:30 a.m.	Register for January 23, 2019, from 12:00-3:00 p.m.
Register for January 24, 2019, from 8:30-11:30 a.m.	NEW DAs Register for January 24, 2019, from 12:00-3:30 p.m.
Register for January 25, 2019, from 8:30-11:30 a.m.	



Connecticut SAT School Day Updates

Test Coordinator Workshops

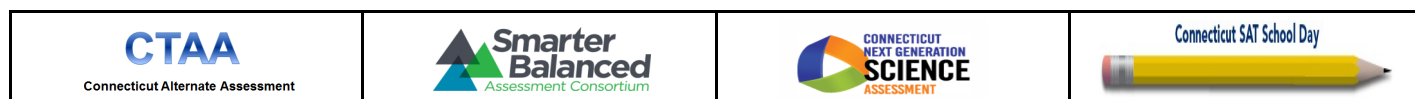
Test Coordinator training for the 2019 Connecticut SAT School Day will take place on February 26 and 27, 2019, at the [Institute of Technology and Business Development \(ITBD\) in New Britain](#). Schools may send **two (2)** people to **one** of the four trainings. The session on February 27, 2019, from 12:00-3:30 p.m. is intended for **NEW** test center supervisors, but any test center supervisor may attend this session. We will spend more time on the details of the administration at this session. Registration information and details are included in the links below.

[Register for February 26, 2019, from 8:30-11:30 a.m.](#)

[Register for February 26, 2019, from 12:00-3:00 p.m.](#)

[Register for February 27, 2019, from 8:30-11:30 a.m.](#)

[NEW Coordinators Register for February 27, 2019, from 12:00-3:30 p.m.](#)



STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS
November 27, 2018



Connecticut SAT School Day Updates (continued)

Online Training Module for SSD Coordinators

An online training module, [Understanding College Board Accommodations](#), has been developed by the College Board to assist Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Coordinators. The SSD Coordinators can access this on-demand training content around some of the most common SSD Coordinator activities. This is not a Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) specific module. Therefore, the information around providing additional documentation does not apply for the Connecticut SAT School Day. The SSD Coordinators can either review the training from start to finish, or select a specific topic of interest from the Table of Contents on the left-hand side if they just need a refresher.

2019 Connecticut SAT School Day Test Coordinator Handbook

The [2019 Connecticut SAT School Day Test Coordinator Handbook](#) is a new resource available for test coordinators. The handbook provides information to assist in the planning of the 2019 administration.

2019 Overview Webex Posted

The [recorded version of the Webex](#) regarding the Connecticut SAT School Day new enhancements for 2019 and accommodations for special populations that was held on November 1, 2018, is now available on the CSDE web site. The [slides from the presentation](#) are also available. The presentation provides an overview of enhancements coming in 2019, as well as information on determining what accommodations are available for qualifying students, and how to make sure they will be available at the time of testing.

Score Sends for the Connecticut SAT School Day

Students who take the Connecticut SAT School Day in 2019 receive four free score sends. Students will enter the college codes for the free score sends on their answer sheet prior to or after testing. Many free score sends go unused by Connecticut students. The CSDE has created a flyer, [Sending Your Scores](#), to encourage using the free score sends for Connecticut's public colleges and universities. Schools may post this flyer and/or use it during testing. Schools are encouraged, but not required to use this resource.

NGSS Interim Assessments

The new interim assessments aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) are now available. Each NGSS interim block includes two item clusters aligned to different performance expectations. There are seven NGSS interim blocks for elementary school and 10 each for middle school and high school. They can be accessed through the Comprehensive Assessment Web Portal using the secure [AIR Test Delivery System](#). All Students in the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) can take NGSS interims. District staff may access the items through the [Assessment Viewing Application](#) (AVA) and results are available through the [AIRWays Reporting System](#).

The [Next Generation Science Standards Interim Assessment Quick Guide](#) gives information about NGSS Interim Assessments for users.

The recording of the November 5, 2018, NGSS Interim Assessment Webinar has been posted to the [CSDE's NGSS web site](#). Please contact [Jeff Greig](#) if you have any questions about the NGSS assessments.





Connecticut Summative Assessment Blueprints

The 2018-19 Connecticut Summative Assessment Blueprints are available on the [Connecticut Smarter Balanced Assessment page](#) for both [English language arts/literacy](#) and [mathematics](#). The test blueprints provide a Connecticut specific outline of the content measured in the ELA/literacy and math summative assessments for Grades 3-8. The test blueprints include critical information such as the depth of knowledge measured and the number of items associated with each assessment target within a claim.

There are slight differences between the Connecticut ELA/Literacy Assessment Blueprint and the Smarter Balanced ELA/Literacy Assessment Blueprint. In contrast to the Smarter Balanced ELA/Literacy Assessment, Connecticut will continue to include hand-scored items in reading, which are short answer questions, and writing, known as the brief writes. In short, Connecticut will preserve the Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) format it has used since the inception of the Smarter Balanced assessments in 2015, but will continue to not include an ELA Performance Task.

Mathematics blueprints have undergone very minor changes. Connecticut will continue to use the Smarter Balanced Blueprints for Mathematics which will no longer include the possibility for hand-scored, short-answer items in the CAT pool. Connecticut's current item pool includes other item types assessing the same content, but which are machine scored, thus maintaining content coverage.



Connecticut Educators Participate in Smarter Balanced Review Meetings

Twenty-five teachers from twenty-two Connecticut districts participated in item-review meetings for English language arts and mathematics by the Smarter Balanced Consortium. The districts that were represented were: Brass City Charter School, Bristol, CES, Coventry, East Haven, Greenwich, Hartford, Ledyard, New Beginnings, New Canaan, North Haven, Norwalk, Orange, Park City Prep Charter School, Plainfield, Region 6, Shelton, Simsbury, Stafford, Vernon and Waterbury.

The CSDE asked some of the educators to describe their experiences at the meetings, which were held over the past several months. We will focus on these experiences in this and the next several editions of the *Student Assessment News*.

Holly Miller is an K-8 District Language Arts Consultant for Ledyard who attended the Smarter Balanced ELA Item Review meeting for Grades 6-8. This is what Holly shared:

"I am honored to have been part of a phenomenal group of educators across the country who were truly engaged in the item review process. Although each member had a specific role to play, we all took on roles that allowed us to analyze the question stem and options which lead to some very deep and engaging conversations. I believe these conversations helped me to exponentially grow as an educator.

Although this is my second opportunity to review items, I increased my understanding of how to effectively use the Content Quality Criteria when reviewing items. I am excited to take my new learning back to the district I work in to use a similar review process on our End of Unit Reading Assessments. I am also eager to transfer my new learning with my colleagues with the hope of better preparing students when they take the summative assessment in the spring."



STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS
November 27, 2018



Special Populations Updates

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When can designated supports and accommodations be entered or uploaded to TIDE?

A: *TIDE will accept the submission of designated supports and accommodations beginning on (and after) November 26, 2018.*

Q: When can my teacher(s) access the required online Alternate Assessment System Training?

A: *Required online Alternate Assessment System training sessions and the associated quiz notification of opening will be posted to the Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal in late November. A passing score of 80% or greater will activate the Teacher Administering the Alternate (TEA) status as “certified” in TIDE, which will provide TEA access to all systems and required documents related to the Alternate Assessments.*

Q: My student qualifies for the Text Reader of the ELA Reading Passages accommodation based on his/her individualized education program (IEP) or 504 Plan. What documentation is required?

A: *In addition to submitting the accommodation in TIDE test settings, complete the [Decision Guidelines for Text-to-Speech of the Smarter Balanced Reading Passages](#) and submit [online](#) prior to testing. Refer to related resources to help inform this decision process: the [Guidelines for Choosing Text-to-Speech or Read Aloud for Smarter Balanced ELA Summative and Interim Assessment Reading Passages](#) and [Text-to-Speech/Read Aloud Accommodation for the ELA Reading Passages Flowchart](#).*

Q: I may have a student who needs a special documented accommodation for Smarter Balanced/NGSS Science (i.e., Read Aloud of the ELA Reading Passages, Scribe), or the Connecticut SAT School Day (i.e., ASL), but I can't find the online petition. What do I do?

A: *The Petition for Special Documented Accommodations is no longer available for download. The new procedures described in the [Assessment Guidelines Appendix B](#) require the District Administrator (DA in TIDE) initially contact either Janet Stuck at 860-173-6837 or Deirdre Ducharme at 860-713-6859 to discuss the specific student need(s) and possible accommodation options. **If e-mailing, do not include any confidential information that should be shared only during the phone discussion.** Requests specific to the NGSS Science (Grade 11) and Connecticut SAT School Day should be made by **December 10, 2018**. Special requests for Smarter Balanced Assessments and NGSS Science (Grades 5 and 8) should be made by **January 28, 2019**. Based on eligibility, DAs will be provided with the special documented petition form for completion. This form will need to be completed by the teacher and submitted to the CSDE along with supporting documentation such as a copy of the student's current IEP. Specific information will be provided during the initial request made by the DA.*

Q: When can SSD Coordinators begin submitting/revising accommodations through the [SSD Online Platform](#) for Grade 11 students with active IEPs and 504 Plans who will be taking the Connecticut SAT School Day?

A: *Accommodations should be entered between December 5, 2018—February 5, 2019. Late requests are possible in specific situations, however, requests must be submitted by February 19, 2019. For accommodations submitted after this date, please contact the CSDE at 860-713-6860.*

Q: When can my SSD Coordinator begin submitting 50% Extended Time for English learners in Grade 11 who will be taking the Connecticut SAT School Day?

A: *Requests for EL 50% Extended time should be entered via a link available on the [SSD Online Platform](#) between January 25, 2019, and February 19, 2019. Additional guidance on submitting these requests will be provided soon.*



Connecticut Alternate Assessment



Connecticut SAT School Day



STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS
November 27, 2018



Special Populations Updates (continued)

Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment (CTAS) Materials are Available

Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment (CTAS) [Required Materials](#) are available on the CSDE Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal. Hard copies were shipped to District Administrators listed in TIDE, including those at Approved Private Special Education Programs earlier this month. It is important that upon receipt of these materials, districts create a system to share materials across the district and store them for future use. If you did not receive CTAS materials and have eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities in Grades 5, 8, and 11 who will be participating in the CTAS, please contact the Connecticut Help Desk by e-mail at cthelpdesk@air.org or by phone at 844-202-7583.

Districts should destroy any materials they may have saved from the 2018 spring CTAS Field Test. Refer to the [Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment TEA Responsibility Checklist](#) for pre-planning activities suggested for the Trained TEA in preparation for the administration of the CTAS.

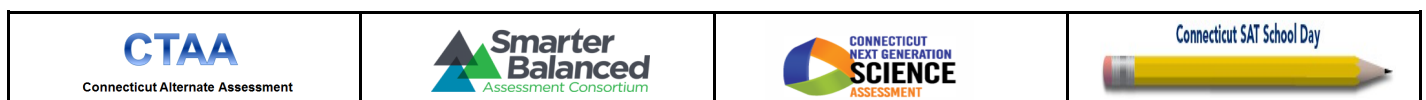
LAS Links Online Connecticut District Technology Webinar

English Learner Assessment Coordinators (ELACs) have identified an individual in each district to be the main technology contact responsible for the LAS Links Online assessment system set up and maintenance. Two webinars hosted by the Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) and the CSDE will be conducted to ensure the administration of the LAS Links assessment for students identified as English learners in Grades K-12. One of the two webinars was held on Friday, November 2, 2018, from 2-3 p.m., but will be repeated on Wednesday, December 5, 2018, from 12-1 p.m. Please register for the upcoming webinar on [12-5-18 \(12-1 p.m.\)](#).

Submission of the Learner Characteristics Inventory through the Data Entry Interface

The Data Entry Interface (DEI) will open on November 28, 2018, for Learner Characteristics Inventory (LCI) submissions. The TEAs will be able to submit planning and placement team (PPT)-approved LCIs through the DEI, as soon as they have user access, which is provided following the completion of training/passing score on the quiz. Given that an early submission of LCIs ensures that students will have access to the Alternate Assessment at the time of testing, please note the submission deadlines for the LCI based upon the following testing windows:

LCI Deadline	Grade(s)	Student Populations by Assessment Window
December 21, 2018	Grades 3-8, 11	English learners who are dually identified and eligible for the CTAA/CTAS; Support state collections for participation in LAS Links
January 18, 2019	Grade 11	Supporting state collections for Connecticut SAT School Day, Science, and CTAA/CTAS
February 1, 2019	Grades 3-8, 11	Supporting state collections for Smarter Balanced, Science (Grades 5 & 8), and CTAA/CTAS



STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS
November 27, 2018



Special Populations Updates (continued)

Updates Related to the Connecticut Alternate Assessment System

Pre-Planning Activities for Teachers Administering the Connecticut Alternate Assessments	
Verify your TEA role in TIDE.	Review Overview for Teachers Administering the Alternate
Access online Training and complete quiz.	Opens late November 2018. CT Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal
Submit PPT-approved LCIs through the Data Entry Interface	LCI Submission Deadlines—Opens on November 28, 2018.: December 21, 2018 - ELs (Grades 3-8 & 11) January 18, 2019 - Grade 11 February 1, 2019 - Grades 3-8
Begin Planning for the CTAS Administration if you have students in Grades 5, 8, and 11.	Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment TEA Responsibility Checklist

English Learners Assessment Coordinator (ELAC) LAS Links Training

English Learner Assessment Coordinators (ELAC) are expected to attend the half-day **2018-19 LAS Links Training** being conducted on November 28, 29 and 30, 2018. The training is being held at the CSDE, 450 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, 2 North, Meeting Room B. Individuals attending **must** provide a photo identification to enter the building. Parking is available on the street or in the Morgan Street Garage with no parking validation.

This training is designed for individuals identified with the Student Assessment Office as the ELAC. Topics will include LAS Links Form D overview, Connecticut LAS Links Accommodations, the DRC digital Library, the LAS Links Student experience and the LAS Links Insight Portal. Each of the dates below have a link to register for one of the repeated sessions. The ELAC may register **ONE** additional colleague to attend with them. Seating is limited and a waitlist will be created.

	AM Sessions: 8:30-11:30	PM Sessions: 12:30-3:30	NOTE: All sessions are the same. You only need to register for one session! PLEASE NOTE:
ELAC Workshop (Session 3)	11-28-18 a.m.		
ELAC Workshop (Session 4)	11-29-18 a.m.		
ELAC Workshop (Session 5)		11-29-18 p.m.	
ELAC Workshop (Session 6)	11-30-18 a.m.		



STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS
November 27, 2018



Special Populations Updates (continued)

Guidance on the Refreshable Braille and Braille Embosser

Refreshable Braille and Braille Embosser are embedded accommodations available for eligible students taking the Smarter Balanced and NGSS Science Assessments and should be manually entered in the TIDE system or through the Test Administration Interface at the time of testing. If you have any questions about the submissions of these accommodations, please contact the Performance Office at 860-713-6860.

Assessment Calendar

Event	Dates
The AIR secure browsers for the 2018-19 school year must be downloaded for all 2018-19 online tests	Currently available
Connecticut SAT School Day Accommodation Window for Students with IEP and 504 Plans	December 5, 2018—February 5, 2019 Late Window Ends February 19, 2019
English Language Proficiency LAS Links	January 2—March 8, 2019
Connecticut SAT School Day Accommodation Window for EL Students with 50% Extended Time	January 25, 2019—February 19, 2019
Connecticut SAT School Day	Primary Test Dates: March 27, 2019, or April 9, 2019 Makeup Dates: April 23 and 24, 2019
NGSS Standard Assessment	February 4—June 7, 2019 (Grade 11) March 25—June 7, 2019 (Grades 5 and 8)
Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment - CTAS	March 25—June 7, 2019 (Grades 5, 8, and 11) (Upload Window for Submission through the DEI)
Connecticut Smarter Balanced	March 25—June 7, 2019
Connecticut Alternate Assessment - CTAA	March 25 —June 7, 2019

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.

