

## Back to School Assessment Communication Letter September 18, 2013

### Overview

Reference letter of July 18, 2013 to Superintendents from Dianna Roberge-Wentzell  
2013 CMT and CAPT Data Release and 2013-2014 State Assessment Update

“As announced last week by Governor Dannel P. Malloy, Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman and Commissioner Stefan Pryor, our intention is to seek the U.S. Department of Education’s authorization to provide Connecticut school districts with new flexibility on statewide standardized tests. This request was recommended by the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC) and approved by the State Board of Education this week. Advancing on these fronts is pending federal approval, which has not yet been granted.

The request covers two primary areas. First, offering districts the option to administer the Common Core-aligned Smarter Balanced assessment in English language arts and mathematics rather than Connecticut’s legacy assessments, the CMT and CAPT\*, in this coming school year. Second, offering districts an option as to whether to use state test data in educator evaluations for the 2013-14 school year. The Talent Office will provide instructions for the latter and **once approval has been granted by the U.S. Department of Education**, the Academic Office will provide districts with assessment selection procedures.”

As we move toward the 2014-2015 school year when Connecticut assessments will be aligned to the Common Core State Standards, areas of needed clarification for the 2013-2014 year as well as the 2014-2015 school year become evident. These include but are not limited to, pilot testing and potential use of the Smarter Balanced Assessment for accountability, and the related conditions for students identified as special education, section 504 or English language learners.

The Academic Office is working with appropriate CSDE consultants to ensure these areas for clarification are identified and continue to be identified during this process. Appropriate procedures are being developed and communicated to districts to meet the needs of these students.

### Current Information Regarding Student Assessment

At this time the following information is known and will be shared in future communications:

- CMT Science will be assessed in grades 5 and 8, CAPT Science will be assessed in grade 10,
- Special education students assessed with the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist will be assessed with the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist in grades 3-8 and 10 for ELA, Math and Access skills. Grade 5, 8 and 10 will also be assessed with the Skills Checklist for science.
- In spring of 2014, the **Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)** will conduct its field test to present the entire pool of items to students across member states. The field test is expected to involve students in about 15 to 20 percent of Consortium schools and will gather the information necessary for final evaluation of item quality.
- The **National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC)**, the consortium Connecticut has been working with to develop our Alternate Assessment aligned to the Common Core State Standards, will be piloting test items in the spring of 2014. This will only involve a selected

sample of students. This test will eventually replace CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Language Arts, Mathematics and Access Skills. The CMT/CAPT Science will continue to be offered.

Below is a table outlining some of the key differences between the legacy CMT/CAPT and the Smarter Balanced Assessment that we can share at this time. We will continue to update you with supporting documents as we clarify necessary changes and procedures.

**2013-2014: State Assessment Options for Students with an IEP, 504 or ELL plan**

Pending USDE approval, districts will be given a choice to administer the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) and/or the Smarter Balanced Assessment Field Test

CMT/CAPT	SBAC
<b>MAS</b> -Students who qualify for the <b>MAS</b> in math and/or Language Arts will take those tests. Grades 3-8 &10	<b>MAS</b> -Students who qualify for the <b>MAS</b> in math and/or Language Arts will take SBAC tests.
<b>Accommodations</b> - All Accommodations will be available similar to last year. Collection through CAPT/CMT Test Accommodations Data Collection website.	<b>Accommodations</b> - Follow “ <i>Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium: Usability, Accessibility and Accommodations Guidelines</i> ”. This document will soon be made available on CSDE website: <a href="#">Test Accommodation Webpage</a>
<b>Special Accommodations</b> - Procedure is similar to last year.	<b>Special Accommodations</b> - Procedure will be determined. Information will be sent to District Test Coordinators.
<b>Medical Exemption</b> : Procedure is similar to last year.	<b>Medical Exemption</b> : Procedure will be determined. Information will be sent to District Test Coordinators.
<b>ELL Exit Criteria</b> - Procedure is similar to last year	<b>ELL Exit Criteria</b> - Procedure will be determined. Information will be sent to District Test Coordinators.
<b>CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist</b> -This test is required for students who qualify. Teachers must have received training in order to administer the test. Grades 3-8 &10	<b>CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist</b> -This test is required for students who qualify. Teachers must have received training in order to administer the test. Grades 3-8 &10
<b>NCSC Pilot Testing</b> - Limited to selected students in a school taking either a language arts or mathematics test. This will occur in 2 phases: Spring 2014 and Fall 2014. More information will follow. Grades 3-8 &11	