

May 12, 2008

Dear Connecticut Educator:

I have three items for you in this update.

CMT and CAPT Online Reports

Since 2004, the Bureau of Student Assessment has reported secure CMT and CAPT results using the <http://www.ctreports.com> Web site. Recently, modifications were made to the secure Individual Student Reports application of the Web site. These modifications include reporting tools that allow users to view:

- CMT and CAPT student results with user-friendly Roster Reports, Score Summary Reports and Performance Level Summary Reports;
- CMT student results across multiple years using Longitudinal Reports;
- CMT scores from last spring for students currently in attendance in a school/district using Feeder Reports;
- CMT and CAPT results in relation to locally uploaded data (e.g., last year's class or this year's class) using the Data Integration tool; and
- CMT student results across years applying the newly released vertical scale.

In the fall 2007, Bureau of Student Assessment staff members offered training at regional educational service centers on new features of the Web site as well as proper data analysis techniques. Much of the information provided at these workshops can be accessed through the Data Interaction User Guide, which is available on the CSDE Web site at

http://www.csde.state.ct.us/public/cedar/assessment/cmt/resources/misc_cmt/CMT_data_interaction_users_guide-9-07.pdf.

Additionally, district test coordinators have been notified that the Student Demographic Data Verification (SDDV) Web site will be open from May 21 to June 6 so that districts can verify their CMT and CAPT test-takers demographic data.

Modified Assessment Development in Reading and Mathematics

Federal regulations will now allow states to develop an alternate assessment for students with disabilities with the proviso that this modified assessment is aligned to grade-level content standards. This is in addition to the Skills Checklist, which is designed for students with the most significant disabilities. Connecticut has opted to develop these modified assessments — the CMT or CAPT Modified Assessment System (MAS) — and make them available during the March 2009 administration in reading and mathematics. On March 1, 2008, the acting associate commissioner of the Division of Assessment and Accountability sent a memorandum to special education administrators outlining steps the Department would be taking to develop the CMT and CAPT modified assessments in reading and mathematics. This is posted on the CSDE Web site at

<http://www.csde.state.ct.us/public/cedar/assessment/mas/resources/March12008Letter.pdf>. Research of student performance on the standard CMT and CAPT is being conducted for the MAS development.

In addition to test development, the Student Assessment Office is completing guidance for districts that will help identify the characteristics of appropriate candidates for this alternative test. An eligibility flow chart and *preliminary guidance* have already been developed, and districts are using them to provide the CSDE with requested feedback. The result of this work will be to refine a set of guidelines that will help districts identify students whose academic programs and special needs are the best match for participation in this new alternate assessment.

Literacy Conference for Secondary Educators

The Connecticut Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development and the Connecticut State Department of Education will present a conversation on secondary literacy with Janet Allen at the La Renaissance Conference Center in East Windsor on May 28. This full-day session is for secondary educators in Grades 6–12. Janet Allen will share practical strategies for engaging secondary students in literacy-rich lessons. Allen is a consultant recognized internationally for her literacy work with at-risk students. She is also the author of numerous professional books. Registration for the conference is available online at <http://www.ctascd.com/ctascd/events/details/15>.

Sincerely,

Mark K. McQuillan
Commissioner of Education