



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Directors of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services
FROM: Isabelina Rodriquez, Chief, Bureau of Special Education
DATE: December 15, 2015
SUBJECT: Changes to the Individualized Education Program (IEP) (ED620)

Page 9 - State and District Testing and Accommodations -

In a [press release](#) on August 6, 2015, Governor Dannel P. Malloy announced that the U.S. Department of Education has approved a waiver request he submitted on behalf of the State of Connecticut to reduce the amount of standardized testing required for public high school students. This approval replaces the Smarter Balanced Assessments for Grade 11 students with the Connecticut SAT. Therefore, these changes need to be reflected on page 9, *State and District Testing and Accommodations* of a student's IEP.

This memo provides you with the revised page 9 of the IEP as well as the instructions on how to complete this page as it will appear in the [CSDE Bureau of Special Education IEP Manual and Forms](#). You may begin using this new page 9 in all PPTs immediately but it **MUST** be revised in the student's IEP prior to the administration of the Connecticut SAT in the spring of 2016 – regardless of whether or not it has been electronically updated in the district's IEP.

The following conditions will apply to all 11th graders:

- If an 11th grade student was planning to take the SAT and apply for accommodations through the College Board, a district may make a **technical edit** on the student's IEP (if it will be in effect during the beginning of March 2016) by checking the Connecticut SAT box under Assessment Options on the revised page 9 of the IEP that indicates: **"Grade 11 ONLY Connecticut SAT."** In addition the following box must be checked under Administration Options: "The student is participating in the Connecticut SAT and will request accommodations****" A copy of the revised page 9 must be replaced in the existing IEP and a copy of that page must be sent to the parents.
- If an 11th grade student was planning on taking the Smarter Balanced Assessments and not the SAT, **the district should hold a PPT** to discuss the new assessment, appropriate accommodations, the two options that are available to request accommodations (via the College Board or the State Allowed Accommodation process) and the implications for each option. The Connecticut SAT box under Assessment Options on the revised page 9 of the IEP that indicates: **"Grade 11 ONLY Connecticut SAT"** must be checked. In addition the following box on page 9 must be checked under Administration Options: "The student is participating in the Connecticut SAT and will request accommodations****" The new page 9 should be included in the revised IEP.

*****Please note:** There are two options for requesting accommodations. One option is through the **College Board (CB) process:** If all accommodations are approved through the CB process, test scores can be used for college admission and state accountability. The other option is through the

State Allowed Accommodations (SAA) process: If accommodations are approved through the SAA process, test scores can ONLY be used for state accountability and NOT for college admission. **Please make sure to discuss these options at the PPT meeting before completing this page of the IEP.**

No changes need to be made to the IEPs of 11th grade students who are scheduled to take the CT Alternate Assessment.

For additional and up-to-date information regarding the Connecticut SAT, please see the November Student Assessment News:

http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/student_assessment/student_assessment_news/2015-2016/student_assessment_news_november_25_2015.pdf

Page 10 – Special Considerations

This memo also includes the revised page 10 of the IEP to document the provision of information regarding IEPs and secondary transition as required by Public Act 15-209 as well as the instructions on how to complete this page as it will appear in the [CSDE Bureau of Special Education IEP Manual and Forms](#). You may begin using this new page 10 in all PPTs immediately as IEPs are revised and updated.

Effective July 1, 2015, Public Act 15-209 requires that immediately upon the formal identification of any child as a child requiring special education and at each PPT meeting thereafter, the responsible local or regional board of education shall inform the parent or guardian of such child or surrogate parent or, in the case of a pupil who is an emancipated minor or eighteen years of age or older, the pupil of (i) the laws relating to special education, (ii) the rights of such parent, guardian, surrogate parent or pupil under such laws and the regulations adopted by the State Board of Education relating to special education, and (iii) any relevant information and resources relating to IEPs created by the CSDE, **including, but not limited to, information relating to secondary transition resources and services for high school students.**

Furthermore, effective July 1, 2015 and each school year thereafter, the CSDE shall annually distribute to local and regional boards of education the *Transition Bill of Rights* which shall be provided to the parent, guardian or surrogate parent of a child receiving special education services in grades six to twelve, inclusive, or to a pupil who is an emancipated minor or eighteen years of age or older, to ensure that the PPT discusses transition services. Local or regional boards of education shall include the *Transition Bill of Rights* in their annual distribution of information to parents at such time as it is received from the State Board of Education.

If such parent, guardian, surrogate parent or pupil does not attend a PPT meeting, the responsible local or regional board of education shall mail the above information.

Until the IEP Vendors have updated the electronic IEP forms, **please use hard copies of pages 9 and 10** that were revised December 2015 (see attached).

Please contact the following CSDE staff if you have questions:

Joe Amenta – 860-713-6855 or **Janet Stuck** – 860-713-6837 – SAT and accommodation requests

Gail Mangs – 860-713-6938 or **Patricia Anderson** – 860-713-6923 – IEP questions