



# Connecticut Mastery Test

FOURTH GENERATION



## UNDERSTANDING TEST SCORES ON THE INDIVIDUAL STUDENT REPORT

This guide will help parents/guardians understand test scores on the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) Individual Student Report(s). For the standard CMT, mathematics, science (Grades 5 and 8), reading and writing scale scores and performance levels are reported and can be compared with the average scale scores of the student's school and district. For the Modified Assessment System (MAS), mathematics and/or reading scale scores and performance levels are reported and can be compared with the state average scale scores. The CMT is only one indicator of student performance. These results should be used along with other information, such as class work and other tests, when making educational decisions.

### SCALE SCORES AND PERFORMANCE LEVELS

Overall scores in mathematics, science, reading and writing are reported in scale score units. The scale scores for each content area range from 100 to 400. For the standard CMT, five performance levels are reported for each content area. The performance levels are Advanced, Goal, Proficient, Basic and Below Basic. The Goal range includes the Advanced and Goal levels. Scoring in the Goal range is a challenging, yet reasonable, expectation for Connecticut students. For the CMT MAS, three performance levels are reported: Goal, Proficient and Basic.

### MATHEMATICS

The overall mathematics scale score is reported as well as a score relative to the mastery criteria for each tested content strand. The content strands are listed on the student report. The Mathematics test assesses students' mastery of grade appropriate mathematics skills and concepts along with their ability to solve realistic problems.

### WRITING

The overall writing scale score is based on a combination of scores from two writing tests (Direct Assessment of Writing and Editing & Revising). The Direct Assessment of Writing test accounts for 60 percent and the Editing & Revising test accounts for 40 percent of the total writing scale score.

#### Direct Assessment of Writing

The Direct Assessment of Writing assesses how well students can communicate ideas in a coherent, elaborated and organized way. Students write a first-draft response to a prompt. A Direct Assessment of Writing holistic score is reported.

#### Editing & Revising

The Editing & Revising test assesses student skills in composing/revising and editing a written piece. A total raw score for the Editing & Revising test is reported, as well as a score relative to the mastery criteria for the two content strands.

### READING

The overall reading scale score is based on a combination of scores from two reading tests, the Degrees of Reading Power<sup>®</sup> (DRP) and Reading Comprehension. Each test accounts for 50 percent of the total reading scale score.

#### Degrees of Reading Power<sup>®</sup>

The DRP test assesses students' ability to understand what has been read. A DRP unit score is reported which is a norm-referenced score. This is the only portion of the CMT that can yield national percentile rank information.

#### Reading Comprehension

The Reading Comprehension test assesses students' ability to read and understand both fiction and nonfiction passages. A total raw score for the Reading Comprehension test is reported, as well as a score relative to the mastery criteria for the four content strands.

### SCIENCE

The Science test is administered in Grades 5 and 8 only. The overall science scale score is reported along with raw scores for each science strand and dimension. There are no established mastery criteria for science. The Science test assesses students' understanding of important scientific concepts and how those concepts apply to the real world. In addition, the test focuses on scientific inquiry and using scientific reasoning to solve problems.

## VERTICAL SCALE SCORE RESULTS

Vertical scale scores are reported for the standard CMT Mathematics and Reading tests. Vertical scales are designed to measure growth in achievement across grades. The vertical scale scores range from 200 to 700 in both mathematics and reading. Within the vertical scale score range, five Levels of Understanding (Stages 1 – 5) have been established which provide for a general content-referenced indicator of student performance across the six grades. Vertical scale scores are available for students who participated in the CMT during the 2008 through 2010 test administrations. Scores and growth results at the school and district levels are also presented for comparative purposes. If available, the vertical scale scores are presented on page four of the Individual Student Report.

Vertical scale scores are based on the performance of individual students on the day of testing. Care should be taken not to base important educational decisions solely on the vertical scale scores.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Your Child's School

Specific questions about individual student performance should be directed to local school district personnel.

### Connecticut State Department of Education

For general information about the CMT, please visit the Connecticut State Department of Education website ([www.ct.gov/sde](http://www.ct.gov/sde)) or call the Student Assessment Office at (860) 713-6860.

### Choose the [Teaching and Learning](#) Link to Access:

[2005 Mathematics Framework](#), [2004 Core Science Curriculum Framework](#) or [2006 English Language Arts Framework](#). These documents detail the curriculum standards used in the development of the CMT.

### CMT Online Reports at [www.cmtreports.com](http://www.cmtreports.com)

This site is designed to provide access to student performance results on the CMT at the state, district and school levels.



Connecticut State Capitol Building

### Choose the [Student Assessment](#) Link to Access:

- ◆ [CMT Fourth Generation Mathematics Handbook](#)  
This handbook contains a thorough explanation of the Mathematics test, including sample questions for Grades 3 through 8.
- ◆ [CMT Fourth Generation Science Handbook](#)  
This handbook contains a thorough explanation of the Science test, including sample questions for Grades 5 and 8.
- ◆ [CMT Fourth Generation Language Arts Handbook](#)  
This handbook contains a thorough explanation of the Reading and Writing tests, including sample questions for Grades 3 through 8.
- ◆ [CMT Interpretive Guide](#)  
This guide includes brief explanations of each test, the scores associated with each test and various sample score reports.
- ◆ [Performance Level Descriptors for Mathematics, Reading and Writing / Performance Level Descriptors for Science](#)  
These documents contain information to help parents, educators and students understand the CMT scores.
- ◆ [CMT Parent Brochure](#)  
This brochure provides parents with general information about the CMT. ([Spanish version](#))
- ◆ [Assessment Guidelines](#)  
This document provides detailed information about test accommodations, the Skills Checklist, and the Modified Assessment System.
- ◆ [CMT Vertical Scales Interpretive Guide and Frequently Asked Questions](#)  
These documents provide detailed information about the vertical scales.