



**Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and
Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT)
Skills Checklist Parent Brochure**



The Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) provide an accurate assessment of how well students are reaching standards of achievement established by the State Board of Education in reading, writing, mathematics, and science.

Connecticut has continually advocated that, to the extent possible, students with disabilities should participate in both the general education curriculum and the standard administration of the CMT and CAPT. In 1997 when federal legislation reauthorized Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), high expectations for students with disabilities became a national priority. One component of this legislation included the development of an alternate assessment for the relatively small group of special education students who cannot participate in the standard assessment program. Connecticut's alternate assessment is the Skills Checklist.

In March, information about your child's skills will be collected through the assessment process. The CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist provides information about the academic performance of students with significant cognitive disabilities.

SIMILAR TO THE STANDARD CMT AND CAPT, THE SKILLS CHECKLIST PURPOSES INCLUDE:

- Setting high expectations and standards for the achievement of all students;
- Testing a comprehensive range of academic skills;

- Disseminating useful test achievement information about students, schools, and districts;
- Assessing equitable educational opportunities;
- Continually monitoring student progress in grades 3 through 8 and 10; and
- Encouraging improvements in the nature of instruction.

SUBJECT AREAS INCLUDED IN THE CMT/CAPT SKILLS CHECKLIST

The CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist is used to assess academic skills in the following areas:

- Language Arts in grades 3–8 and 10;
- Mathematics in grades 3–8 and 10; and
- Science in grades 5, 8, and 10.

In addition to the three sections related to academic skills, the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist also includes Access Skills. Access Skills are rated in the areas of:

- Communication (Receptive, Expressive, and Social Interactive Communication);
- Basic Literacy; and
- Quantitative (Basic Spatial Relationships).

These are skills necessary for students to access the general education curriculum and are skills that students without disabilities typically develop prior to school entry.



The CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist is structured to help teachers individualize instruction for students with significant cognitive disabilities. The Skills Checklist is completed by the student's primary special education teacher. Judgments are made by the teacher based on observations and interactions with students throughout the year. Teachers use a "working" copy of the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist to plan instruction, monitor student progress and growth, and document achievement. The working copy is referenced when completing the "Online CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist" during the March statewide assessment period.

Each item in the academic skills sections of the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist corresponds to grade level performance standards and specific expected performance statements that are found in the Connecticut curriculum frameworks.

The Skills Checklist is not a secure document. Collaboration among regular classroom and special education teachers as well as other staff members is encouraged in monitoring each student's progress on the skills assessed through the Skills Checklist.

CMT/CAPT SKILLS CHECKLIST RESULTS

Depending on your student's grade level you will receive a Connecticut Mastery Test Skills Checklist Profile or Connecticut Academic Performance Test Skills Checklist Profile. This student profile explains how well your student demonstrated academic and access skills on the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist. With the information provided you can compare your child's academic results to standards that have been set for language arts and mathematics as well as science in grades 5, 8, and 10.



For Further Assistance:

**Connecticut State
Department of Education**

Bureau of Student Assessment

**Connecticut Mastery Test
860-713-6860**

**Connecticut Academic Performance Test
860-713-6890**

Helpful Websites:

**Connecticut State
Department of Education
<http://www.ct.gov/sde>**

To review the curriculum frameworks go to Curriculum and Instruction.

For information on the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist go to Student Assessment/Skills Checklist.

**Helpful Information for Parents
<http://www.ed.gov/parents>**

Copyright © 2009 by the Connecticut State Board of Education in the name of the Secretary of the State of Connecticut.