

## Connecticut Mastery Test and Connecticut Academic Performance Modified Assessment System (CMT/CAPT MAS)

This document provides additional information about the Connecticut Mastery Test and Connecticut Academic Performance Test Modified Assessment System (CMT/CAPT MAS) as a component of the Connecticut testing program. In March 2009, the CMT/CAPT MAS pilot test was administered to students with disabilities who were eligible for these assessments as determined by the [CMT/CAPT \(MAS\) - Eligibility Criteria and Flow Chart](#) and through the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) process. In a memo dated September 15, 2009, District Test Coordinators were informed of the unique aspects of how students' participation in the MAS would impact student and district results.

The information below will clarify how the CMT/CAPT MAS will impact both students and districts in future test administrations. General information about CMT/CAPT MAS is located on the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Web site at:

<http://www.csde.state.ct.us/public/cedar/assessment/mas/index.htm>

For the 2009-2010 school year, along with the standard CMT/CAPT and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist, the CMT/CAPT MAS will be an additional assessment option available only to students with disabilities who have an active Individualized Education Program (IEP) and meet eligibility criteria.

### Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will students receive a report of their results from the CMT/CAPT MAS pilot test in March 2009?
  - A. Yes, individual student reports indicating that the student participated in the grade-level CMT/CAPT MAS pilot test in mathematics and/or reading will be sent to District Test Coordinators by late November. Since it was a pilot test, the report will not indicate which score is sufficient to be considered at or above Proficient. The report will include the number of points the student earned out of the total number of points on the MAS in that content area. Also included will be a state average for all students who took the same grade-level MAS pilot in that content area.
  
2. Do students who took the MAS pilot test last year automatically take the MAS this year?
  - A. No, like all assessments this determination should be made yearly at each annual Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meeting. A student's eligibility to take the MAS is determined at the most recent PPT meeting. At that time, evidence that supports the decision is reviewed with the [CMT/CAPT \(MAS\) PPT Eligibility Worksheet](#). This completed worksheet is needed to register the student on the [CAPT/CMT Accommodations Data Collection Website](#).

3. Can we use the 2009 CMT MAS pilot test score to determine whether a student should qualify to take the MAS in 2010?
  - A. While the results from the 2009 CMT/CAPT MAS pilot provides some information about the student's performance and would not be appropriate to use as a sole source of eligibility evidence.
4. How do we determine a student's eligibility to take the CMT/CAPT MAS in 2010 if we do not have last year's scores, because they participated in the MAS pilot test?
  - A. The use of last year's CMT score, although an important indicator of a student's performance, is not the only measurement that should be used to determine whether a student performs substantially below grade level. District-wide, school and classroom assessments should also be considered.
5. When is the deadline to register students who will be assessed with CMT/CAPT MAS in the March of 2010 on the CAPT/CMT Accommodations Data Collection Website?
  - A. The CAPT/CMT Accommodations Data Collection Website is open as of October 15<sup>th</sup> 2009. The first collection should be completed by November 28, 2009 and the final collection by December 4, 2009.
6. What happens if the student's PPT meeting is scheduled after December 4, 2009 and a decision is made to assess the student with the MAS in 2009?
  - A. The CAPT/CMT Accommodations Data Collection Web site remains open through the testing window. However, the student must be registered on the Web site as soon as possible, but prior to testing.
7. Will I receive enough test booklets if I add students after the December 4<sup>th</sup> deadline on the CAPT/CMT Accommodations Data Collection Web site?
  - A. All districts will receive additional MAS test booklets this year. If more test booklets are needed, they may be ordered through Measurement Incorporated, but the student **MUST** be registered in CAPT/CMT Accommodations Data Collection Web site. *(NOTE: This year the CMT/CAPT MAS Reading will be provided as an online assessment using Measurement Incorporated Secured Testing (MIST) application. Additional information is provided below.)*
8. Is there supplemental testing for students assessed with the MAS?
  - A. Students assessed with the Reading and/or Mathematics MAS test, should **not** participate in the standard Reading and/or Mathematics supplemental tests. These

students **are required** to participate in any supplemental tests in subjects that they are not assessed with the MAS.

9. Can Grade 11 and 12 students take the CAPT MAS?

A. Yes, if a PPT determines a student is eligible for this test.

10. For the 2010 test administration, will students receive scores indicating whether they achieved proficiency on the CMT/CAPT MAS?

A. Yes, student performance levels will be reported on the CMT/CAPT MAS, there will be three performance levels. Districts will also receive paper and electronic reports similar to those provided for the standard CMT and CAPT.

11. How will students be reported for AYP purposes?

A. Students participating in the CMT/CAPT MAS who score at the proficient level or above will be included in the school and district calculations. For the purpose of calculating AYP at the district level, the number of students who score at the proficient level and above on the CMT/CAPT MAS shall not exceed 2.0 percent of all students in the grades tested unless scores on the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist at the proficient level and above do not reach the 1.0 percent cap. The CSDE shall include the scores of the students who exceed the percentage cap in the AYP calculations at the district level as below basic. However, there is no cap on how many students in a district can participate in the CMT/CAPT MAS if they meet the eligibility criteria. Eligibility is based on identifying the appropriate assessment, given each student's disability.

12. If a student scores proficient or above in the CMT/CAPT MAS, would they have to take the standard CMT/CAPT the following year?

A. No, the appropriate assessment for a student is determined through the annual PPT process based on the eligibility criteria.

13. If a student is a special education student and an English language learner (ELL) assessed with the CMT/CAPT MAS how would they meet criteria for exiting ELL services?

A. These students will follow the same exit criteria established for all students that are English language learners. More information can be accessed on the CSDE's Web site:

[Performance Standards Necessary to Exit Programs of English Language Instruction](#)

## Online Testing for CMT/CAPT MAS Reading Tests

Beginning with the 2010 test administration, the Reading CMT/CAPT MAS tests will be administered online to all eligible students. For Reading CMT MAS, these subtests include Reading Comprehension and Degrees of Reading Power® (DRP). For Reading CAPT MAS, these subtests include Reading for Information and Response to Literature. Students registered on the CAPT/CMT Accommodations Data Collection Web site for the Reading CMT/CAPT MAS tests, take these tests using the Measurement Incorporated Secured Testing (MIST) application. This is the same online application used with students who receive the *Word Processor/ Online Computer Response Accommodation*. Since this will be the primary method for taking this test, there is no need to indicate this as an accommodation on the accommodation form for the Reading CMT/CAPT MAS tests. Students who require the *Word Processor/ Online Computer Response Accommodation* for the Mathematics, the Direct Assessment of Writing, Interdisciplinary Writing or the Science test(s), must have this indicated on the accommodation form. All students who will take the Reading CMT/CAPT MAS will also receive a Reading CMT/CAPT MAS test booklet.

As a new feature on MIST, students taking the Reading CMT/CAPT MAS tests, who need the *Reader-directions only* accommodation, may have this accommodation provided through MIST. This accommodation will need to be indicated on the CAPT/CMT Accommodations Data Collection Web site.

There are many reasons for expanding online testing for students.

- An online testing environment promotes the use of assistive technology as a means of greater independence.
- Districts are responsible for providing staff to administer the test with various accommodations; online testing provides many of these accommodations directly to the student.
- Although a small number, students needing the voice-recognition accommodation may also use online testing. This eliminates the need for sending testing material through special handling.
- MIST will eventually include features that provide other accommodations through this online environment ( i.e. print/screen enlargement, text reader for test items and the ability to use a variety of input devices for greater student response independence).

There may be some student specific or school specific concerns about the use of online testing. Below are answers to frequently asked questions regarding online testing.

## Frequently Asked Questions

14. What if the student is not capable of online testing because of their disability?

- A. The Bureau of Student Assessment is committed to providing every student with the most appropriate access to the state tests. If students' disabilities interfere with what they are expected to do on MIST, they will be allowed to take the test in the most appropriate manner. There are, however, various input devices that may be used to interface with the computer. Schools should investigate these devices and determine their appropriateness for particular students.

15. What if the student is not capable of taking an online test because of their lack of experience with a computer?

- A. The MIST application includes a practice site that may be used to determine a student's ability to participate in online testing. If a student's lack of experience is a true barrier, the student should be administered the test with the appropriate grade-level test booklet(s) and allowable accommodations. Additional information about these situations will follow in the District Test Coordinator Manual.

Note: The majority of test items in the lower grades are multiple-choice that require the ability to use a mouse. There is a limited amount of typing required for open-ended responses.

16. Can a student take one part of the Reading test using MIST and another in a test booklet?

- A. No, the entire Reading test must be completed using MIST.

17. Do we need to test all the Reading MAS students in the same grade at the same time?

- A. No, students may be administered the Reading CMT/CAPT MAS based on the availability of computers and proctors.