



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents
FROM: Dr. Dianna Roberge-Wentzell, Chief Academic Officer
RE: Common Core State Standards Implementation and Next Generation Assessments
DATE: March 7, 2013

The Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) Academic Office will be producing sequenced communication over the coming weeks and months as it relates to implementation of the Common Core State Standards and next generation of assessments. As noted in a previous memo from me, beginning in the 2012-2013 school year and continuing through 2014, the CSDE is providing a Common Core aligned "Practice Assessment" to help districts better determine how students are learning in alignment with the standards. The feedback from this assessment will support district improvement efforts and the administration of these bridge assessments will support your district as we transition assessments.

In preparation for the Smarter Balanced online computer-adaptive testing in 2015, the CSDE is analyzing the Technology Readiness Tool's (www.techreadiness.org) data as it relates to Connecticut schools and districts. We ask that you, or your technology designee, please check your district profile to ensure that the most current and accurate data is captured. Doing so allows users, including CSDE staff, to maximize the use of the *Results and Indicator Reports*. The following distinctions in the data are worth noting:

- Estimated Internet Bandwidth Field Values: This field should represent the value that most closely matches the volume of data that your internet connection can move over a specified time for a *specific* school or building. This value may not match the value of the final internet connection for a multiple school district. As a result, a multiple school district should be evaluated in accordance with available bandwidth between a school building and the facility that provides the connection, as well as the final connection speed to the internet.
- Please be aware that a typical multiple school or location district will only have one location or school with a connection to the internet, usually over Connecticut Education Network (CEN).
- Estimated Internal Network Bandwidth Field Values: This field should represent the value that most closely matches your internal network capacity for a *specific* school or building. This is typically the bandwidth within a single location or school.
- In some districts, fields have been left "missing" on the survey. Where possible, these fields should be completed.
- Some districts that chose to load data electronically may have uploaded duplicate files so district device counts are artificially high. This should be corrected.

These reports will identify potential schools and/or districts that may have issues meeting the minimum Smarter Balanced requirements for testing. The CSDE will provide guidance on these minimum requirements as well as models for districts that may help support your administration in 2013 and beyond. Clarifying information on this memo and the February 20, 2013 memos will be available through a voluntary conference call hosted by the Academic Office on **March 13, 2013** from **1:30-2:30pm**. Should you choose to join us for this call, please **dial: 888-324-9317, passcode: EDUCATION**. The call is for district leaders; you will be prompted to give your name/affiliation upon joining the call.

Please contact Emily Byrne via telephone at 860-713-6543 or via email at emily.byrne@ct.gov for more information regarding any of these memos or Abe Krisst via telephone at 860-713-6894 or via e-mail at abe.krisst@ct.gov with technical questions, or login information for www.techreadiness.org.