



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Stefan Pryor, Commissioner of Education 

DATE: February 5, 2013

SUBJECT: Common Core Aligned Practice Assessment

During 2012, the “Year of Education Reform,” we accomplished much through the legislative session and have begun implementing key initiatives that resulted from the reform bill. In 2013, we will continue to supplement and refine initiatives presently underway and develop new programs that support student achievement. As we enter the implementation phase of reform, we must continue to build upon the momentum gained last year to ensure that the Governor’s Six Principles of Education Reform are realized.

I have heard from many of you that, in the past, the State Department of Education has not done enough to support districts in implementing the Common Core State Standards, adopted in 2010, and in transitioning to Smarter Balanced assessments, occurring in 2015. We must live up to the promise of the Common Core if we are to ensure that all students leave our schools and districts ready for college, career, and civic engagement.

To aid in the fulfillment of this promise, we will be providing a Common Core-aligned practice assessment to help you better determine your district’s readiness this spring. This practice assessment is in addition to, and will be administered subsequent to, the required Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT). We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity; however, districts may choose to opt out of the practice assessment.

Students in grades three through eight will take the practice assessment in three subjects: math, reading, and writing. The practice assessment is 60 minutes for reading and math, 90 minutes for writing, and will be taken on the computer. Students in grade eleven will take a ninety-minute practice assessment, also on the computer, in writing or math. Details regarding the practice assessment and implementation of the Common Core will be provided in the upcoming weeks from Dr. Dianna Roberge-Wentzell, the CSDE’s Chief Academic Officer.

We hope this new tool is of value to you. We look forward to finding many more ways to provide you with services and resources that are of assistance as you pursue Common Core preparation and implementation.