CONNECTICUT SAT SCHOOL DAY
Frequently Asked Questions for Districts and Schools

CSDE
CONNECTICUT STATE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Why did Connecticut choose the SAT in lieu of Smarter Balanced for grade 11 students?

Governor Dannel P. Malloy sought and won approval in 2015 for a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education to use the SAT as the high school accountability measure for Connecticut in lieu of the 11th-grade Smarter Balanced assessment. The switch to the SAT also satisfies the requirements of Connecticut Public Act No. 15-238, which states that effective in the 2015–16 school year students enrolled in grade 11 should be administered a nationally recognized college readiness assessment that is approved by the State Board of Education and that measures essential and grade-appropriate skills in reading, writing, and mathematics.

While the Connecticut SAT School Day is the primary grade 11 assessment for all students, the Connecticut Alternate Assessment will be administered to a small percentage of students with significant cognitive disabilities.

When will the Connecticut SAT School Day be administered to grade 11 students?

The three-hour Connecticut SAT School Day will be administered during the school day to all grade 11 public school students on April 5, 2017. Make-ups will be administered on April 25 and 26, 2017. There will be no cost to districts for administration of the Connecticut SAT School Day on these dates. Both the Connecticut State Department of Education and each LEA are legally responsible to administer these assessments to all students. The Connecticut SAT School Day will be used in grade 11 for school and district accountability just like Smarter Balanced in grade 11 during 2014-15 and CAPT in grade 10 prior to that.

What does the Connecticut SAT School Day measure?

The Connecticut SAT has two sections: evidence-based reading and writing and mathematics. The evidence-based reading and writing section includes a reading test and a writing and language test. An independent content alignment study confirmed that in both English language arts and mathematics, the majority of the Connecticut Core Standards have a strong or moderate match to the Connecticut SAT School Day.

What is assessed on the Connecticut SAT School Day?

The Connecticut SAT School Day focuses on the skills and knowledge that evidence shows are needed most for college and career success. It reflects what students are already learning in their classrooms in mathematics and ELA with literacy focused on topics from science, history, and social studies. The vocabulary portion of the Connecticut SAT School Day will focus on words that students use consistently in college and beyond. Additional information is available at https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/.

What resources are provided to Connecticut educators to prepare for the Connecticut SAT School Day?

The CSDE provides in-person and technology-based professional development and assistance for:

- Local test administrators, proctors, and technology coordinators.

- Teachers, students, and parents, to help

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them understand the redesigned SAT through modules about test content and test results.

- Postsecondary enrollment professionals, to show them how to use data and resources to inform admission and financial aid decisions.

Can students use calculators on the Connecticut SAT School Day?

A calculator will be allowed on one of two sections in the redesigned Connecticut SAT School Day Math Test. Please read the College Board's calculator policy for specific information on which calculators can be used on test day.

What accommodations are students with disabilities and English learner students permitted on the SAT?

Students	College Reportable Accommodations Used for accountability and college admissions	Connecticut State-Allowed Accommodations for State Accountability Used for accountability purposes only
Students with Disabilities	Braille booklets	Sign language – test content
	Text-to-speech for all test content (College Board MP3 audio)	Sign language – student responses
	Large print booklet	
	Color overlay	
	Noise buffering	
	Magnification device	
	Computer response	
	Scribe	
	Speech-to-text (College Board assistive technology)	
	Specialized calculator	
	Abacus	
	Multiplication table	
	Time extension	
	Separate setting	
	American Sign Language (ASL) – test directions only	
	Signed Exact English – test directions and test content	
English Learners	Written directions in Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese, Polish, Mandarin and Haitian-Creole	Time extension
	Native language reader – test directions only	Bilingual dictionaries – word-to-word translation

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What is the process to apply for accommodations for students with disabilities and EL students?

The CSDE is committed to ensuring that students with disabilities and EL students can take the Connecticut SAT School Day with the accommodations they need. All requests for accommodations require entry on the College Board's Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) website at www.CollegeBoard.org/ssd. To request an SSD Online account, complete the SSD Coordinator Form and fax it to College Board SSD at 866-360-0114. An access code to use with the College Board professional account will be provided. For more information about accessing the account for the first time, see How to Sign Up for SSD Online.

Any accommodations used on the Connecticut SAT School Day must be approved through the College Board SSD process, even when the student receives these accommodations in school. If the College Board has previously approved a student for an accommodation, it is not necessary to reapply unless there has been a change to the student's accommodation needs.

What is the difference between a reportable score and a nonreportable score?

A reportable score may be used to send to colleges for admissions purposes and for state accountability purposes. A nonreportable score may not be used to send to college for admissions purposes and will be used for state accountability purposes only.

What will be the score ranges for the SAT?

The Connecticut SAT School Day will be scored on a 400- to 1600-point scale. The evidence-based reading and writing section and the mathematics section will each be scored on a 200- to 800-point scale. There will no longer be a penalty for wrong answers.

Can a student's scores from the Connecticut SAT School Day be reported to colleges?

Students who have an online SAT account can choose which SAT scores to report to colleges, including the Connecticut SAT School Day administration. With the SAT Score Choice feature, students have the option to choose which scores, by test date, to send to colleges. If students do not use Score Choice, all scores will be sent.

Reporting scores to colleges is a process agreed upon by the student/parent and the College Board. Scores will not be reported without express permission of the student/parent.

Students can elect to have their SAT scores canceled by completing the Cancel Scores form immediately after test administration (see College Board website for more info). If canceled, colleges will not receive the scores from that particular administration; however, the state will still receive the scores.

Is there a cost to send Connecticut SAT School Day scores to colleges?

Students will receive four free college score sends when they take the Connecticut SAT. These free score sends must be used within nine days of the test administration. After this window, there is a cost for sending SAT scores to colleges.

Do colleges and universities require an essay?

The College Board has a list of colleges and universities that have established positions on whether they will require the SAT optional essay for admissions.

For additional information, contact Michelle Rosado at michelle.rosado@ct.gov.