



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



### Guidance for 2013-2014 Smarter Balanced Field Test Students Identified As English Learners

This year districts have the option to administer the 2013-14 Smarter Balanced Field Test instead of Connecticut's legacy assessments: the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT); and Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT). When selecting this option, districts must consider the impact for students identified as English Learners (ELs). In order to facilitate a smooth transition, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is providing the following general guidance:

- accommodations for students participating in the legacy CMT/CAPT Assessment System will continue to be collected as in prior years via the [Test Accommodations Data Collection Web site](#);
- **all** students in Grades 5, 8 and 10 will be assessed in science utilizing the legacy (CMT or CAPT) assessment regardless of which assessment option a district selects.

#### Guidance Specific to Districts selecting the 2013-14 Smarter Balanced Field Test

In addition to the information above, districts selecting the Smarter Balanced Field Test option must consider the guidance provided below.

#### ***1. How do we indicate that the EL student will participate in the Smarter Balanced Field Test?***

If a district selects the Smarter Balanced Field Test option, students identified as ELs being assessed without test accommodations will be registered by districts into the Smarter Balanced Field Test System. Specific information regarding this process will be forthcoming.

Students identified as ELs who will be accessing the assessment with accommodations will be registered via the [Test Accommodations Data Collection Web site](#) using the new *2014 Smarter Balanced Test Support/Accommodation Form*.

For students who are ELs with disabilities please refer to *Guidance for 2013-2014 Smarter Balanced Field Test for Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Students Receiving Accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504)*

Universal accessibility tools, designated supports, and documented accommodations associated with the Smarter Balanced Assessment can be viewed in the [Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium: Usability, Accessibility and Accommodations Guidelines](#). Connecticut will be providing further guidance specific to the 2013-14 Smarter Balanced Field Test in future communications.

**2. *What if the annual meeting was conducted prior to the district selecting the Smarter Balanced Field Test option?***

If the annual meeting has been conducted prior to district selection of the Smarter Balanced Field Test another meeting should be conducted. The district team, including the parent whenever possible, should meet to discuss the changes in the assessment (including previously agreed upon accommodations). The *Smarter Balanced Test Support/Accommodations Form* must be completed and entered on the [Test Accommodations Data Collection Web site](#). A copy of the completed Smarter Balanced Test Support/ Accommodations Form should be provided to the district test coordinator.

Please call Janet Stuck at 860-713-6860 or Joe Amenta at 860-713-6855 for questions related to accommodations.

**Exit Criteria**

For guidance related to exit criteria for districts selecting the Smarter Balanced Field Test option, please refer to *2013-2014 English Learners Exit Criteria* letter.