

CONNECTICUT



STATE DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION

National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC)

Pilot Phase One

Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities

- Students eligible for the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist will participate in the Skills Checklist for the 2013- 2014 school year.
- For the 2014-2015 school year students with significant cognitive disabilities will no longer participate in the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist for Math and ELA, but will continue to participate in the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist for Science in grades 5, 8, and 10
- To prepare for the new alternate assessment these students with significant cognitive disabilities have the opportunity to participate in the NCSC Pilot Phase 1

NCSC Pilot (Phase 1)

- District Test Coordinators were informed about how to register for the pilot.
[National Center and State Collaborative \(NCSC\) Phase 1 Pilot Memo](#)
- The letter of explanation was accompanied by an FAQ document and a registration template.
[Frequently Asked Questions for the NCSC Phase 1 Pilot](#)
[NCSC Phase 1 Pilot Test School Registration Form](#)
- A link to the NCSC participation guidelines was also provided.
[NCSC Participation Guidelines](#)
- The NCSC pilot will be conducted between late February and April of 2014

Purpose of the NCSC Pilot

The NCSC AA-AAS pilot is being conducted to:

- Collect data about how students interact with the mathematics, reading, and writing items
- Gather information about how the items function
- Examine test administration conditions
- Review item scoring processes and procedures

What about the Pilot Data

- Both phase 1 and Phase 2 pilot tests are not designed to provide individual student performance information, therefore districts will not receive any results from the NCSC pilot test
- Data collected from both phases of the pilot will inform the test forms and administrative procedures for the operational test in Spring of 2015
- Phase 2 of the NCSC pilot test will be administered in the fall of 2014.

Why should schools, teachers, and students participate in the NCSC AA-AAS pilot?

- Teachers and their students will have the opportunity to experience the item types, item presentation, and administration procedures they will experience in 2015
- Teachers will have an opportunity to provide feedback on their experience administering the items to students
- Your school will have the opportunity to confirm that teachers and students have the technology (computer hardware, software and internet capabilities) needed to complete the NCSC AA-AAS online
- Data collected will inform the test forms and administration procedures for the operational NCSC AA-AAS that will be administered in 2015 to every eligible student in partner states

When will the NCSC AA-AAS pilot take place?

Mathematics

- Late February to March 2014

English Language Arts

- March to April 2014

What is the design of the NCSC AA-AAS pilot?

Eligible students in grades 3 through 8 and grade 11 will take NCSC AA-AAS pilot forms in either English language arts (ELA) or Mathematics

- The **ELA** pilot has approximately 25 selected response items and one writing prompt
- The **Mathematics** pilot has approximately 25 selected response and constructed response items
- In both ELA and Mathematics:
 - items will assess grade-level content aligned to the Common Core State Standards
 - forms will be constructed with a mix of easy to difficult items

How will the NCSC AA-AAS pilot be administered?

- Teacher test administrators will work one-on-one with students to administer the NCSC AA-AAS pilot
- The items will be presented online through the NCSC comprehensive assessment system
- The NCSC AA-AAS pilot will take about 2 hours in total per subject to administer

How will the NCSC pilot be administered to address individual student needs?

- Teachers will be able to pause and resume the test; there will be no loss of any recorded student response
- Students may use assistive technologies and other supports that they use during instruction as per administration guidelines
- The test administrator will enter the responses to items for those students who require assistance or a printed paper form

Name Requested on CTB Registration Form	Role in NCSC Pilot Phase 1
Principal or Designee	Ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment of school and students for pilot phase 1 in CTB system. • Administration of the assessment during the test window. • Test administrator participation in the required professional development prior to administering the assessment. • Informational letter is sent to parent/guardian of students participating in pilot phase 1.
Test Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure completion of individual student enrollment forms for pilot phase 1 in CTB system. • Collect all paper copies of test, if any, and ensure secure shredding. • Assist teachers with scheduling logistics.
Special Education Contact/Test Administrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the individual student enrollment forms in the CTB system. • Prior to administering the assessment, complete required professional development training. • Administer the assessment to assigned students and record and submit student responses in the online platform.
Technical Support Contact	Prior to the test window: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the technology equipment to be used for the assessment meets the requirements as indicated on the NCSC Technology Checklist. • Ensure that test administrators have access to computers to participate in the required professional development prior to administering the assessment. During the test window, provide technical support for teachers and students in their use of the required technology, e.g., troubleshoot issues with browsers and internet.

What are the training requirements to administer the NCSC pilot?

- All teachers who will administer a NCSC AA-AAS pilot test must complete test administration training modules based on the Test Administration Manual in either Mathematics or ELA
 - Several weeks prior to the assessment window
 - May be completed using the online self-directed course of study, or
- Every test administrator will participate in training and pass quizzes to ensure that the items are administered appropriately.

What are the technology requirements for the NCSC pilot?

Test Delivery Workstation Hardware and Software: The test delivery system should align with the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) recommendations. The following represents the minimum hardware and software requirements of the test delivery workstation.

Operating System	PC: Windows Vista SP2, Windows 7, Windows 8 Mac: 10.4.4 (Tiger), 10.5 (Leopard), 10.6 (Snow Leopard), 10.7 (Lion), 10.8 (Mountain Lion), 10.9
Browser	IE 9 or better; Firefox 24 or later; Chrome 26 or better; Opera 12 or better Safari 6 or better
Other Work Station Requirements	32 bit and 64 bit; disk space: 100 MB or more; Chromebook version 18 or better; screen resolution: 1024 x 768 or higher; screen size 9.5: inches or larger, color depth: high color, 16 bit millions; any media will be played through native browser capabilities
Required Peripherals	Mechanical keyboards; mouse; speakers for students using read-aloud features
Bandwidth	1.5 Mbits/s dedicated or faster

What is the registration process for CT?

District Test Coordinators/Principals or their designees may register their school to participate in the NCSC AA-AAS pilot until **January 10, 2014** at

www.ctb.com/NCSCPilot

What information is needed to register your school?

- Contact information for principal, test coordinator, technical support, and special education administrators
- Number of eligible students per grade
- Approved Private Special Education Programs should register and note the sending District in the Special Considerations text window

When will individual students be registered?

- Teachers in participating schools will be asked to register all of their eligible students in mid to late January of 2014

What if I make a mistake on the registration page?

If there are errors in your submission:

- Please go back to www.ctb.com/NCSCPilot and complete a new submission
- Make a note in the comments box that this is a corrected submission
- The incorrect submission will be deleted from the system

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