



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: District Test Coordinators for State Approved Private Special Education Programs

FROM: Janet Stuck and Joseph Amenta
Education Consultants
Academic Division

DATE: December 4, 2013

SUBJECT: Smarter Balanced Field Test 2013-2014 District Assessment Choice

On October 7, 2013, Connecticut's superintendents received a memorandum from Commissioner Pryor affirming the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) support for the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the commitment to prepare all students to be college and career ready. One component of this transition process is providing assessments that align to the CCSS. Therefore, the CSDE is seeking a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) on provisions of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education (ESEA) Act regarding: 1. Student Assessment Options; and 2. District and School Accountability.

The Commissioner requested local education agencies (LEA) to inform the CSDE of their choices, conditional upon federal approval as to which assessment the LEA aims to administer in the 2013-2014 school year. These choices (i.e., the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT), the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) or and/or the Smarter Balanced Field Test (SB-FT)) were submitted in October.

As a State Approved Private Special Education Program you provide services to students from various LEA's. This year conditional upon federal approval, districts will be providing assessments based upon their submitted choice and therefore, you must provide your students the appropriate assessment based upon their sending district choice.

Attached please find a Smarter Balanced Update sent to District Test Coordinators administering the Smarter Balanced Field Test and the 2013-2014 District Assessment Choice List. Please use the 2013-2014 District Assessment Choice List to determine which assessment to administer to each of your students. For high school students:

- Districts that selected CAPT will assess students in Grade 10 only.
- Districts that selected SB-FT will assess students in Grade 11 only.
- Districts that selected "Both" will assess Grade 10 students using CAPT and Grade 11 students using SB-FT.
- In all cases Science will be assessed with the CAPT in Grade 10.

Please contact Janet Stuck or Joe Amenta in the Academic Office if you have questions. Their contact information is as follows:

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Thank you for your cooperation.