

Field Test Completion Information

As of May 5, a total of 686,100 tests were completed by Connecticut students. The current number of tests started and completed across all Consortium states can be found on the [Smarter Balanced Web site](#). Each “test” included in these counts represents a PT or Non-PT within a content area.

Upcoming Key Dates

March 25–June 6, 2014:

Field Test administration window

May 8–11, 2014:**Scheduled system downtime for Field Test****May 17–18, 2014:**

Scheduled system downtime for Practice and Training Tests

May 19, 2014:

Release of updated Practice Test with new items and performance tasks

June 9–13, 2014:

Optional make-up week

Practice Test Update

The Smarter Balanced Practice Tests were released in the spring of 2013 to help students and teachers understand the format of the Smarter Balanced test, as well as the tools and resources that are available to make the test more accessible. The refreshed Practice Test scheduled for release in May 2014 includes new questions and performance tasks. Enhancements also include additional embedded universal tools, designated supports and accommodations. The practice tests in English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics for Grades 3 through 8 and 11 each include approximately 30 questions, as well as a new performance task.

The updated Practice Tests more closely mirror the operational assessment and includes the following features:

New Mathematics Features

- Questions that include the range of item types expected to appear on the operational assessment, including a new question type that allows students to enter information directly into the cells of a table
- Questions that span a range of difficulty for the grade level from “very easy” to “very difficult” and performance tasks that utilize more open-ended response types to allow students to explain their thinking on complex, real world problems
- Improvements to question wording, format and directions based on input from experts in content and accessibility and accommodations experts

New English Language Arts Features

- New or revised reading and listening passages
- Improvements to question wording, format and directions based on input from experts in content and accessibility and accommodations experts
- Questions that include the range of item types expected to appear on the operational assessment, including matching tables and short-text questions
- Revised scoring rubrics for teacher use

Usability, Accessibility and Accommodations Features

- For the math assessment in every grade, glossaries are available in 10 languages and several dialects
- Full-stacked Spanish translation available for the math assessment in every grade

Data Verification

Districts administering the Smarter Balanced Field Test should ensure that the following demographic fields are accurately noted in TIDE prior to the end of the testing window on June 13, 2014.

- 1) Required fields (*) noted on pages 40 - 43 of the [TIDE User Guide](#).
- 2) The following non-required fields should also be verified:
 - Last Name
 - First Name
 - Middle Name
 - Birthdate
- 3) Districts should also keep records of the following information. Students who:
 - Are absent during the entire testing window.
 - Leave a test blank.
 - Are unable to complete testing due to technical difficulties.
 - Are no longer enrolled in a Connecticut Public School District.
 - Are ELL Exempt.

Information regarding documenting this information in TIDE will be provided to DTCs, once this functionality becomes available.

Chromebook Information

Chromebook users who have upgraded to operating system version 34 may not be able to successfully utilize the Text-to-Speech feature. Smarter Balanced is working with Google to resolve the issue and recommends that users who have not yet upgraded their operating systems refrain from doing so until the issue is resolved.

Student Moving During Testing—Correction

CSDE previously communicated that students who changed schools or districts during testing and had already started a test, would be able to resume the test where they left off at the new school or district. This information was incomplete. Students who change schools or districts during testing **may** be able to resume the test from where they left off at the previous school or district—but only if they have the same form assignment at the new school. This means in the majority of cases the student will receive a new test rather than a continuation of the one already started. The new school or district will be able to check ORS to determine if the student previously started or completed any tests.

Contact the Academic Office at 1-860-713-6860 or SmarterBalancedCT@ct.gov with questions regarding the Smarter Balanced Assessment System. View past Smarter Balanced Field Test Updates on the [CSDE Web site](#).

Smarter Balanced Help Desk Contact Information:
1-855-833-1969 or smarterbalancedhelpdesk@ets.org.