

This update provides information related to the 2014 administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Field Test in Connecticut.

Measurement Incorporated Web Portal

To ensure that information regarding the Smarter Balanced Field test is sent to the appropriate district staff member(s), please **verify that the District Test Coordinator (DTC) and Second Contact information is accurate in the District Contact Verification (DCV) application of the [Measurement Incorporated \(MI\) Web Portal](#)**. The Grades 3 – 8 Smarter Balanced DTC should be considered equivalent to the CMT DTC and the Smarter Balanced High School DTC should be considered equivalent to the CAPT DTC. Please contact the Measurement Incorporated Connecticut Help Line at 866-762-1060 or Connecticut@measinc.com for assistance with the MI Web Portal.

Testing Window

The testing window for the Smarter Balanced Field Test is March 18 to June 6. Schools have identified three-week windows during which they anticipate testing students. This information was collected to estimate server capacity and is not binding. Additional guidance will be provided regarding scheduling testing to maximize instructional time during the testing window.

Participation Information

For Grades 3 – 8 and 11, students are required to take both the Mathematics and English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA) assessments. Each student will be administered the following:

- A set of “Non-performance task” items for each content area;
- One performance task for Mathematics with a classroom activity; and
- One, two-part performance task for ELA with a classroom activity.

The classroom activity for each performance task should be administered sometime during the week before the performance task administration. The classroom activity does **not** require the use of computers. More information will be provided in the test administration manuals available in January.

For scheduling purposes, participating schools should plan for approximately 3.5 hours of testing time **per grade and content area**. Testing is intended to be administered over multiple test sessions of about 45 minutes each, but may be administered in shorter or longer sessions as appropriate for the students and the school.

Estimated Testing Times for Students to Complete the Smarter Balanced 2013 Pilot Test

The test duration estimates described below are applicable to most students. However, Smarter Balanced assessments are not timed. Some students may need more time while others may made need less time to complete the assessment.

Content Area	Grades	Computer Required			In-Class Activity	Total
		Non-Performance Task	Performance Task	Total		
English Language Arts/Literacy	3-5	1:30	2:00	3:30	0:30	4:00
	6-8	1:30	2:00	3:30	0:30	4:00
	11	2:00	2:00	4:00	0:30	4:30
Mathematics	3-5	1:30	1:00	2:30	0:30	3:00
	6-8	2:00	1:00	3:00	0:30	3:30
	11	2:00	1:30	3:30	0:30	4:00
Combined	3-5	3:00	3:00	6:00	1:00	7:00
	6-8	3:30	3:00	6:30	1:00	7:30
	11	4:00	3:30	7:30	1:00	8:30

Online Practice Tests for Mathematics and English Language Arts/Literacy

Mathematics and ELA Practice Tests for Grades 3 – 8 and 11 are available on the [Practice Test page](#) of the Smarter Balanced Web site. The purpose of the Practice Tests is to:

- Provide an opportunity for teachers, students, parents, and other stakeholders to experience the features of online testing.
- Provide insight into how Smarter Balanced will assess students’ mastery of the Common Core State Standards.

Secure Browser for Field Test Administration

The Smarter Balanced secure browser **must** be downloaded on each computer for the Field Test. This browser can be installed individually or deployed to all computers through a network. The browser ensures a secure environment while students are testing by preventing access to other online applications and ensuring that test items cannot be copied. The secure browsers for Windows, Mac, and Android are now available for download at <http://sbac.portal.airast.org/browsers/>.

This early release allows for additional time to test the browsers' permissive mode, which will support the use of assistive technology devices during student testing. The **Linux** secure browser, and the **iPad and Chromebook** applications (apps) will be released at a later date; additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

Note: Schools that downloaded other versions of AIR's secure browser (including those for the 2013 Smarter Balanced Pilot Test) **must still download the Field Test browser**. Other versions of the browser will not work for the Field Test; however, schools do not need to uninstall other secure browsers—they can have more than one installed at the same time.

Testing on tablets—new application for secure browser. Schools that test using iPad® or Android® tablets will need to download an application (app) rather than the secure browser. The link to the installation stores (the Apple® App Store and the Google® Play Store) is available at <http://sbac.portal.airast.org/browsers/>. Schools that have already downloaded previous versions of these apps simply need to update their existing app.

Documentation: Along with the secure browser, the *Field Test Technical Specifications Manual* and *Secure Browser for Tablets User Guide* are available for download at <http://sbac.portal.airast.org/browsers/>. If you have questions regarding the secure browsers, please contact Educational Testing Services (ETS) at 1-855-833-1969 or SmarterBalancedHelpDesk@ets.org.

Web-Based Training Modules

Smarter Balanced is developing web-based training modules to support the Field Test administration. Most modules will be released and available for use by January 28, 2014. Detailed information regarding the training modules will be included in a later update.

Test Coordinator and Test Administration Manuals

The *Test Coordinator Manual* and *Test Administration Manual* will be made available on the Field Test portal on January 29, 2014. Additional information regarding the release of the manuals will be included in a later update.

Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE)

All students participating in the Field Test must be registered in the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE). The Connecticut State Department of Education will upload the student demographic data file for all participating students. This upload will occur in late January 2014. Once this upload is completed, TIDE provides administrators with the tools to add and manage users and students. The *TIDE User Guide* will be released to the Field Test portal on January 14, 2014. Additional information regarding the upload of supports and accommodations for students into TIDE will be provided in another update.

CMT/CAPT Science Assessments

All students in Grades 5, 8 and 10 will participate in the CMT or CAPT Science Test. Additional information regarding the Science Test administration will be provided in another update.

Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines

The [Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium: Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines](#) is available on the Smarter Balanced Web site. This document provides a general guideline for all participating states. In Connecticut, we are in the process of offering schools information on how all these testing features apply within our state. To begin this process, a thirty-minute [Usability, Accessibility & Accommodations: 2013-2014](#) presentation is available to share with colleagues who need to be aware of this information.

Connecticut State Accommodation Website

The [CSDE Accommodation Website](#) will open by mid-December. District personnel will be able to enter accommodations for Special Education, Section 504 and English Learners for the Smarter Balanced Field Test. This accommodations data collection will be uploaded to TIDE by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE).

The Learner Characteristics Inventory for CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist and CMT/CAPT accommodations should also be entered where applicable.

CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist

The CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist will be used to assess students in Grades 3 – 8 and 10 who have been identified as eligible for this assessment. Additional information regarding the Skills Checklist administration will be provided in another update.

National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC)

Connecticut is also a member of the National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC). This consortium of states is developing a new alternate assessment for students currently assessed with the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist. Information regarding NCSC is available on the [Student Assessment page](#) of the CSDE Web site.

If you have any questions regarding the Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines, the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist or NCSC, please contact:

- Joe Amenta, 860-713-6855 or Joseph.Amenta@ct.gov
- Janet Stuck, 860-713-6837 or Janet.Stuck@ct.gov

Learn More about the Field Test

[Field Test](#) information is available on the [Smarter Balanced Web site](#). This page has been designed to provide parents, teachers, students, and the community with information on the Smarter Balanced Field Test administration.

The Connecticut State Department of Education Web site also has a page dedicated to the [Smarter Balanced Assessment System](#). Contact the **Academic Office** at 860-713-6860 or SmarterBalancedCT@ct.gov with questions regarding the Smarter Balanced Assessment System.