

STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

July 31, 2014

Connecticut State Department of Education

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The *Student Assessment News* is designed to communicate information about the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, the Connecticut Alternative Assessment (CTAA) developed with National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC), and Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT)/ Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) Science.

SMARTER BALANCED NEWS

Recruitment for Online Panel for Achievement Level Setting

Smarter Balanced is recruiting K-12 educators, post-secondary educators, school administrators, parents, and community/business leaders to participate in the Online Panel for recommending achievement levels for the assessments. The achievement level setting process is a critical next step in developing an assessment system based on challenging, yet fair, expectations for students. The Online Panel (October 6–17) phase of achievement level setting provides an opportunity for up to a quarter of a million K–12 educators and other interested parties to participate in recommending achievement levels. To register for the Online Panel, please visit www.smarterbalanced.org/onlinepanel. For more information, read and share the [Smarter Balanced Online Panel opportunity letter](#).

Digital Library Preview

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium is committed to ensuring that all students leave high school prepared for postsecondary success in college or career. A balanced assessment system that includes *summative* and *interim* assessments and *formative* assessment practices provides tools to improve teaching and learning. The formative assessment process is an essential component of a balanced assessment system.

The Digital Library is an online collection of instructional and professional learning resources developed by educators for educators. These resources are aligned with the intent of the Common Core State Standards and help educators implement the formative assessment process to improve student learning. There are over 1,300 resources posted in the Digital Library. The Digital Library is open for preview through September 30, 2014, for K–12 educators in all Consortium member states. Two Digital Library Tours are available for your viewing: [Logging into the Digital Library and Finding Resources](#) and a [Demonstration of the Collaboration Features](#). Additional information about the [Digital Library](#) is available on the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Web site. Contact Joe Di Garbo at Joe.DiGarbo@ct.gov for access information.

Unauthorized Use of Smarter Balanced for Marketing

An organization called Wowzers, which produces online mathematics materials for Grades 3 through 8, is marketing a “Smarter Balanced National Pilot” to Connecticut districts. This effort has no relationship to the Smarter Balanced Field Test or to Smarter Balanced. Wowzers did not seek permission to use the Smarter Balanced name.

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Additionally, an organization called Snapwiz is marketing a formative assessment product called Edulastic that claims the following: “teachers can create standards-aligned formative assessments with interactive, free-form questions defined by Smarter Balanced and PARCC.” This product has no relationship to Smarter Balanced.

Smarter Balanced and the CSDE do not endorse Snapwiz or Wowzers.

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

The Guide to Technology Requirements

The State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) recently created *The Guide to Technology Requirements*. This guide will help districts and schools understand the detailed requirements for state assessments. It also provides guidance to districts about overall school technology needs. *The Guide to Technology Requirements* is available at <http://gtr.setda.org>.

Technology Readiness Tool

Thank you to those who contributed information to the Smarter Balanced Technology Readiness Tool (TRT). The information submitted provided state and Consortium leadership with valuable data that helped to make the Field Test a success.

Smarter Balanced will not continue to support the TRT after July 31.

TRAINING NEWS

2014-2015 Required Training for Connecticut Alternate Assessments

All special education teachers with a primary responsibility for assessing students with significant cognitive disabilities are required to receive training by the CSDE. The Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) also referred to as NCSC, and the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science require participation in one of two options prior to March 1, 2015.

All teachers responsible for administering these alternate assessments, including those teachers with current Skills Checklist Administration certifications, must participate in one of two types of CSDE training. The CTAA/NCSC is replacing the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist in English language arts and mathematics for the 2015 administration.

Please access additional information at <http://ctserc.org/ctaa>.

2014-2015 Smarter Balanced Usability Accessibility & Accommodations Training

The CSDE continues to prepare teachers to administer the Smarter Balanced Assessments for English language arts/literacy and mathematics to all students in Grades 3-8 and 11 in the spring of 2015. One component of the Smarter Balanced Assessment system includes understanding, selecting, and providing access to the assessment. To assist administrators and all teachers working with general education students, students with disabilities, and students who are English learners, two types of optional professional learning opportunities have been created. Additional information can be accessed at <http://ctserc.org/SmarterBalancedUAA>.



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Achieve: Student Assessment Inventory for School Districts Webinar

In this webinar, scheduled for September 11 at 3 p.m., Achieve will share a new tool, the Student Assessment Inventory for School Districts. The inventory tool is designed to guide district administrators and instructional leaders through a process to ensure the minimum number of tests are administered to provide essential instructional, diagnostic, and accountability information. This tool is designed to provide an opportunity for district leaders to take stock of district assessments and make decisions based on the findings. More information about the webinar will be forthcoming.

