

STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

March 9, 2015

Connecticut State Department Of Education

CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov

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CMT/CAPT Science, CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science, CTAA and Smarter Balanced Test Window

Connecticut Summative Assessments 2014 - 15

State Assessment	Content Area	Grade(s)	Testing Window
CMT/CAPT	Science	5, 8 and 10	March 2 - 27
CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist	Science	5, 8 and 10	Upload Dates: March 2 - 27
CTAA/NCSC Connecticut Alternate Assessment	English Language Arts/Literacy & Mathematics	3 - 8 and 11	March 30 - May 15
Smarter Balanced	English Language Arts/Literacy & Mathematics	3 - 8	March 17 - June 12
Smarter Balanced	English Language Arts/Literacy & Mathematics	11	April 27 - June 12

In preparation for the start of the Smarter Balanced summative assessments, all interim assessments will go offline for maintenance from 8:00 a.m. on Friday, March 13 through 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 16. Districts will not be able to access the interim assessments during this time.

Smarter Balanced Test Administration Manual (TAM) and Test Coordinator Manual (TCM)

The [Smarter Balanced TAM](#) and the [Smarter Balanced TCM](#) are posted on the CSDE Smarter Balanced Portal. Paper copies of the TCM and TAM will be received by March 17, 2015. Paper copies will be boxed by school and will include one TCM per school and one TAM for every 30 students. Districts will also receive a district overage box. These materials will be sent to the address in the [MI Web Portal](#) under the CMT DCV section for “shipping of test materials.”

Test Information Distribution Engine and Public School Information System Data Sync

The CSDE has not yet refreshed the student-level data in the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) since the initial upload in January from the Public School Information System (PSIS) Registration Module. The daily sync between TIDE and PSIS is anticipated to begin this week. Please ensure that all changes to student enrollment and demographic information are made in PSIS. Changes made in PSIS may take up to 24 hours to appear in TIDE.

Any changes to a student’s status, at the time of testing, should be made directly in the PSIS Registration Module. The PSIS Registration Module is being updated to include new fields for **Special Education, English Learner, and Economically Disadvantaged Status during testing**, so these fields can be modified to reflect a student’s status at the time of testing.

Arrival of Smarter Balanced Results

The CSDE anticipates scores to be available in the Online Reporting System(ORS) in July (no set date yet) after hand-scoring is completed. Paper individual student reports will be shipped later (most likely sometime in August) to districts for dissemination.



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Parent Resources

Below are new resources that can be used when communicating with parents and guardians about the Smarter Balanced assessments. These resources will help explain what parents should expect regarding this year's assessment results.

- a [template letter](#) that reminds parents of the new tests and explains that the results will be different;
- a [template PowerPoint presentation](#) to use at parent and community meetings or at local board of education meetings;
- a [handout for parents](#) about the new tests that helps explain how the results will be different this year; and
- a [web-friendly version of the parent handout](#) about the new test and the expected new results.

New Test Administration Resources on the [CSDE Smarter Balanced Portal](#)

- Narrated version of the "Embedded Tools and Online Features" module
- Narrated version of the "Accessibility and Accommodations" module
- Narrated version of the "Technology Requirements for Online Testing" module
- Non-narrated version of the "Online Reporting System (ORS)" module
- Non-narrated version of the "Test Administration Overview" module
- [Test Administration Quick Guide](#)

Smarter Balanced Recorded Webinars

Recordings of the webinar training sessions may be streamed online by selecting the appropriate link below. Please be aware that these are recordings of live sessions. Questions and concerns that were asked during the session may have already been resolved. Please check the [FAQ page](#) to view the most up to date information.

Webinar	Description
Technology Requirements (2-12-15)	This webinar provides an overview of the technology requirements needed on all computers and devices used for online testing, information on secure browser installation, and voice packs for text-to-speech.
Technology Requirements (2-19-15)	
TIDE and How to Start/Monitor Online Testing and Test Settings (2-12-15)	This webinar provides an overview and demonstration of the following systems: Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE), Test Delivery System (TDS), and Teacher Hand-Scoring System (THSS).
TIDE and How to Start/Monitor Online Testing and Test Settings (2-19-15)	

ChromeBook Software Update Required for Testing

Smarter Balanced has discovered that certain versions of ChromeOS have an issue that interferes with assessment delivery. For successful administration of the Smarter Balanced assessments on Google Chromebooks, please upgrade your software to version 40.2214.115 or later.

Classroom Activities Availability

Classroom Activities for the performance tasks will be assigned by school and grade within TIDE. Classroom Activities have been posted in the [TIDE](#) system. Specific information about the administration of Classroom Activities is included in the [Smarter Balanced TAM](#).

2015 CMT and CAPT Science Online Supplemental (Pilot) Testing

Online supplemental (pilot) testing for the CMT and CAPT Science for students in Grades 5, 8 and 10 will occur between March 17 and April 17, 2015. This is one week later than originally planned, but both the start and end dates have been delayed in order to maintain a five-week testing window. CMT and CAPT Science online pilot testing will be conducted using the MIST system. Separate usernames and passwords from the live tests will be provided for the science online pilot tests and will be posted on the [Measurement Incorporated Web Portal](#). If you



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have questions about the MIST system, contact the MIST technical support desk at 866-691-1148. If you have questions about the 2015 CMT and CAPT Science online pilot test, contact Jeff Greig in the Student Assessment office by email at jeff.greig@ct.gov or by phone at 860-713-6890.

NCSC/Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA)

Please share the following information with colleagues in special education and with test administrators. Also, note that in general, NCSC is interchangeable with the Connecticut branding of this assessment called Connecticut Alternate Assessment or CTAA. The secure portal to access the [NCSC Assessment System](#) is open. District Test Coordinators (TC) will receive their usernames and passwords this week in an e-mail from NCSCServiceDesk@measuredprogress.org. Educators who have completed the [2014-15 CSDE Connecticut Alternate Assessment \(CTAA\) and Skills Checklist Science Training](#) will also receive their usernames and passwords this week; they will be referenced as Test Administrators (TA). Eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities who are registered for this assessment through the [CTAA and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklists Science Eligibility & Learner Characteristics Inventory \(LCI\)](#) entry on the CSDE [Accommodations Data Entry Web site](#) will participate in Language Arts and Mathematics assessments beginning March 30, 2015. These assessments must be completed by May 15, 2015. Please note these resources related to the NCSC/CTAA:

- [NCSC Test Administration Manual](#) provides administration information for both Test Coordinators and Test Administrators.
- [NCSC-CTAA Overview](#) summarizes some critical components of the NCSC-CTAA and provides a description of the test sessions.
- [NCSC Sample Items Overview 2015](#) is a presentation with notes describing sample items and the test structure for the NCSC assessment. Test Administrators will be able to access these sample items within the test platform once they log-in to work with their students.

Beginning the week of March 9, 2015, District Test Coordinators and Test Administrators will have access to the NCSC Assessment System Training specific to their role. All Test Administrators will be required to complete a quiz with 80 percent accuracy or better in order to access and administer the NCSC assessment to their students. E-mails from NCSCServiceDesk@measuredprogress.org will provide login information to access the system.

A [letter](#) was sent to all District Test Coordinators from Janet Stuck on March 6, 2015 requesting a response by **March 15, 2015**, regarding Special Form Requests for students in Grades 3 and 4 who respond with Braille or non-verbally, as well as students in all grades who are Blind, Deaf or Deaf-Blind in order to provide the secure document *Procedures for Assessing Students who are Blind, Deaf, Or Deaf-Blind: Additional Directions For Test Administration*.

TIDE Information Related to Accommodations and Designated Supports

As a reminder, districts cannot add or remove students from TIDE. Daily uploads from PSIS will automatically make changes for schools. The one time transfer of Embedded Designated Supports and Accommodations has been transferred to TIDE from the Accommodations Data Entry Web site. Non-Embedded Designated Supports and Accommodations were not transferred, but are captured on the Accommodations Data Entry Web site. It is not required that districts indicate these in TIDE.

There has been some confusion about Text-to-Speech for ELA. The chart below shows how the selection for ELA on the CSDE TEST SUPPORT/ACCOMMODATIONS FORM would look in TIDE:

CSDE TEST SUPPORT/ACCOMMODATIONS FORM	TIDE
<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> Text-to-Speech for ELA Reading Passages (Grades 6-8 & 11 only) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Text-To-Speech (Designated Supports and Accommodations) ELA <input type="text" value="Passage&Items"/>
<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> Text-to-Speech (Does NOT include ELA Reading Passages) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Text-To-Speech (Designated Supports and Accommodations) ELA <input type="text" value="Items"/> ELPT <input type="text" value="Stimuli&Items"/>



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As Smarter Balanced states prepare to implement the operational assessments, it is only natural that much of the focus has been on the summative assessment component. But, Smarter Balanced is more than just a year-end test, another essential component of the assessment system is the formative assessment process and the Digital Library.

As a reminder, the [Digital Library](#) is an online collection of instructional and professional learning resources contributed by educators for educators. These resources are aligned with the Common Core State Standards and will help educators implement the formative assessment process to support teaching and learning. The resources are fully vetted against a set of quality criteria.

The [Digital Library Factsheet](#) outlines the innovative design features and collaboration features of the Smarter Balanced Digital Library. For more information, visit the [CSDE Web Site](#).

Digital Library Accounts

The CSDE is managing the Digital Library user accounts. To modify existing accounts (i.e., first/last name and e-mail address changes) or to delete accounts, District Test Coordinators should send an e-mail to Joe Di Garbo (Joe.DiGarbo@ct.gov). To create new accounts, prepare a spreadsheet that contains the First Name, Last Name, and E-mail Address for each new user (see sample spreadsheet below). E-mail addresses must be professional (district/school) e-mail addresses.

Sample Spreadsheet

	A	B	C
1	First Name	Last Name	E-mail Address
2			

The completed spreadsheet should also be sent to Joe Di Garbo (Joe.DiGarbo@ct.gov) only **by the District Test Coordinator**. Once the template is uploaded, each listed educator will receive a "Welcome to the Smarter Balanced Digital Library" e-mail (from Smarter-DoNotReply [Smarter-DoNotReply@opentestsystem.org]) with access information.

AIR Smarter Balanced Help Desk Reminder

The AIR Smarter Balanced Help Desk is available at 1-844-202-7583 and CTHelpDesk@air.org. The Help Desk Call Center is open Monday – Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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