

STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

November 19, 2014

Connecticut State Department Of Education

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SMARTER BALANCED NEWS

Release of Training Materials

Training materials for the 2015 Smarter Balanced test administration will be available soon. In addition to testing manuals and user guides, the following trainings will be available.

Three live (recorded) presentations for the following audiences:

- District and Building Administrators
- Technology Coordinators
- Test Administrators

These presentations will include information about the Test Delivery System (TDS), the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) and the Online Reporting System (ORS).

Nine **updated** Smarter Balanced training modules:

- What is a Computer Adaptive Test (CAT)
- Performance Tasks
- Accessibility and Accommodations
- Universal Tools
- Technical Requirements
- Test Administration Training
- Test Administrator (TA) Interface
- Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE)
- Student Interface

District Test Coordinators will be informed via the *Student Assessment News* as they become available. Please refrain from using manuals and training materials from the 2014 Smarter Balanced Field Test, as changes have been made to those resources based on feedback during the Field Test.

Digital Library Information

The [November 6 issue](#) of the *Student Assessment News* stated that the Smarter Balanced contractor for the Digital Library was going to force a password reset **just for users who have not yet logged into the Digital Library**. The password reset was not processed. At present, Smarter Balanced is expecting the reset to be performed this Saturday, November 22, 2014.

The recommended browsers to use with the Digital Library are Internet Explorer (Version 9 or higher), Google Chrome (Version 28 or higher), Safari (Version 6 or higher), or Firefox (Version 23 or higher). Users will still be able to access the Digital Library through a non recommended browser, but they may experience missing/malfunctioning components.

OTHER STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

District Test Coordinator Workshops – Save the Date!

District Test Coordinator Workshops are tentatively scheduled for the week of January 20 – 23, 2015, at the Institute of Business and Technology Development (ITBD) in New Britain. Registration information will be distributed in December. Training will be provided for the administration of the Smarter Balanced assessments for English language arts/literacy and mathematics, CMT/CAPT Science, CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science Assessment, and the Connecticut Alternate Assessments (NCSC) for English language arts and mathematics.



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Assessment Reduction Grant

The [Assessment Reduction Grant](#) was recently released by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE). Please see the [announcement letter](#) from Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Dianna Roberge-Wentzell. Additionally, note that the submission date for proposals is January 9, 2015.

reminder

CSDE Accommodations Collection Web site

The [CSDE Accommodations Collection Web site](#) was recently opened to enter information for students taking Smarter Balanced Assessments, CMT/CAPT Science, CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science and Connecticut Alternate Assessments (CTAA). All information must be entered on this site by **Friday, February 13, 2015**. Information entered in the CSDE Accommodations Collection Web site will be transferred to the appropriate test delivery system. After February 13, student information is still required to be entered on the CSDE Accommodations Collection Web site; however, additional information will also need to be entered into the appropriate test delivery system. Contact Joe Amenta (joseph.amenta@ct.gov/860-713-6855) or Janet Stuck (janet.stuck@ct.gov/860-713-6837) for additional information.

reminder

Assessment Suite Workshops

The CSDE, in conjunction with the RESC Alliance is offering a series of workshops to further familiarize educators with the Smarter Balanced Assessment System. Titles of the first two workshops are: *Using the Digital Library to Support Teaching & Learning* and *Connecting the Claims to Classroom Instruction*. To register for these opportunities to learn about the Smarter Balanced Assessment System, visit http://ctcorestandards.org/?page_id=1955.

reminder

Updating the Measurement Incorporated Web Portal

To ensure that information regarding the Smarter Balanced Assessment, the CMT/CAPT Science Test (including Skills Checklist Science), and Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) 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 is equivalent to the CMT DTC and the Smarter Balanced High School DTC is equivalent to the CAPT DTC. Please contact the Measurement Incorporated Connecticut Help Line at 1-866-762-1060 or Connecticut@measinc.com for assistance with the MI Web Portal. If you received this communication and are not the DTC, please forward this newsletter to the appropriate district staff member.

