

**STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS**

Connecticut State Department Of Education

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

[CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov](mailto:CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov)

November 25, 2014

860-713-6860

**SMARTER BALANCED NEWS**

**New/Updated Resources Posted on the Smarter Balanced Web site**

- The [Smarter Balanced Scoring Guide for ELA/literacy Performance Task Full-Write Baseline Sets](#) for Grades 3, 6, and 11 is available on the [Smarter Balanced Assessments page](#) of the [Smarter Balanced Web site](#). This scoring guide is provided to help educators understand the scoring process for the Performance Task Full-Writes.
- The [Parents & Students page](#) includes an updated [Parent Factsheet](#).
- The [Teachers page](#) includes an updated [Teacher Factsheet](#).

**Digital Library Information**

On Saturday, November 22, **users who have not yet logged into the Digital Library** should have received an email from Smarter-DoNotReply [Smarter-DoNotReply@opentestsystem.org] stating their Smarter Balanced Digital Library account password was reset. The e-mail contains a temporary password to be used the next time the user logs into the Digital Library.

For optimal Digital Library performance, it is recommended that users clear their browser's cache. Users can use these [instructions](#) to clear their browser's cache. Additionally, 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 an unsupported browser, but they may experience missing/malfunctioning components.

Information about the [Smarter Balanced Digital Library](#) is found on the Connecticut State Department of Education Web site. District Test Coordinators may e-mail [Joe.DiGarbo@ct.gov](mailto:Joe.DiGarbo@ct.gov) for technical support.

**OTHER STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS**

**Connecticut Summative Assessments 2014 – 2015**

State Assessment	Grade(s)	Testing Window	Total Testing Time per Student	Delivery Method
CMT/CAPT Science	5, 8 and 10	March 2 – 27	65 minutes - Grade 5 70 minutes - Grade 8 50 minutes each (2 sessions) - Grade 10	Paper/pencil delivery except for students requiring accommodations through MIST.*
CMT/CAPT Science Skills Checklist	5, 8 and 10	Upload Dates: March 2 – 27	Not Applicable	Completed through the MI Web Portal.
NCSC/Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA)	3 – 8 and 11	March 30 – May 15	Time will vary by student.	Online
Smarter Balanced ELA/Literacy & Math	3 – 8	March 17 – June 12	Approximately 6 – 6.5 hours**	Online
Smarter Balanced ELA/Literacy & Math	11	April 27 – June 12	Approximately 7 – 7.5 hours**	Online

\* CMT/CAPT Science test items will be piloted online.

\*\* Total testing times are estimates for most students and are provided for scheduling purposes. Smarter Balanced assessments are designed as untimed tests; some students may need more or less time.

**NOTE: There is no scheduled "System Downtime" for the testing windows.**

**NOTE: The CSDE will not be offering a Paper/Pencil option for Smarter Balanced tests.**



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## Smarter Balanced Assessment Approximate Test Length

The table below provides approximate test lengths for most students. Smarter Balanced assessments are designed as **untimed tests**; some students may need and should be afforded more time than shown in this table.

It is recommended that schools schedule test sessions for 40 – 60 minute blocks of time, as appropriate for students. Schools may schedule more than one test session per day, so students will typically spend 1 to 2 hours per day on the assessments over several days. Because the tests are computer adaptive, each student will be administered a different set of test items. It is therefore not necessary to administer the same test to all students within a grade at the same time. This will provide schools with the opportunity to maximize instructional time during the testing window.

The Classroom Activity of the performance task should be administered in a classroom setting and will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Classroom Activities do not require the use of computers. It is recommended that the Classroom Activity be administered no more than 3 days before the performance task. Test administrators will be provided with scripts to administer the Classroom Activity. The Classroom Activities are designed to ensure that all students understand the context of the performance task topic.

## Smarter Balanced Approximate Assessment Test Length

Content Area	Grades	Computer Required			Classroom Activity	Total
		CAT	PT Only	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

## National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC)

[Answers to Common Parent Questions Regarding the NCSC Alternate Assessments](#) is now available. This resource may be helpful in informing parents/guardians for students planning to take the NCSC Alternate Assessment.



## 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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reminder

## Assessment Reduction Grant

The [Assessment Reduction Grant](#) was released by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) on November 19, 2014. Please see the [announcement letter](#) from Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Dianna Roberge-Wentzell. The submission date for proposals is January 9, 2015.

reminder

## CSDE Accommodations Collection Web site

The [CSDE Accommodations Collection Web site](#) is open 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](mailto:joseph.amenta@ct.gov)/860-713-6855) or Janet Stuck ([janet.stuck@ct.gov](mailto:janet.stuck@ct.gov)/860-713-6837) for additional information.

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](mailto: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.

