

## STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

November 6, 2014

Connecticut State Department Of Education

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

860-713-6860

### SPECIAL POPULATIONS NEWS

#### CSDE Accommodations Collection Web site

The [CSDE Accommodations Collection Web site](#) will be available to enter information for students taking Smarter Balanced Assessments, CMT/CAPT Science, CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science and Connecticut Alternate Assessments (CTAA) on **Monday, November 10, 2014**. 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.

#### Test Administration Manual for the National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC/CTAA) Pilot 2 Test Now Available

On October 20, 2014, Connecticut began the second phase of the NCSC large-scale pilot test of the summative assessment for students with significant cognitive disabilities. Pilot 2 is part of the NCSC comprehensive approach to field testing the system and items. This pilot is specifically designed to help refine test forms prior to the operational test in Spring 2015. The [NCSC Pilot 2 Test Administration Manual](#) (TAM) is available for download. It is anticipated that there will be minor revisions to the TAM prior to the operational testing. Given the intense work that has been completed in this multi-phase field testing, the TAM represents a good overview of test administration procedures.

### SMARTER BALANCED NEWS

#### New Resources

- The [Smarter Balanced “Tests of the Test” Successful: Field Test Provides Clear Path Forward](#) summarizes findings from surveys conducted by 13 Consortium member states (including Connecticut) following the 2014 Field Test. This report is based on a review of survey results of more than 19,000 students and approximately 5,000 educators. The report is organized around six major topics:
  - the **technology readiness of states, districts, and schools**;
  - the **readiness of test administrators and proctors** to properly deliver the assessments;
  - the **student test interface** and embedded tools, supports, and accommodations;
  - the **functioning of new test item types**;
  - the **rigor of the assessments and degree to which items and tasks reflected what students had learned in class (instructional alignment)**; and
  - the functioning of the Smarter Balanced **test delivery system and help desk**.

Several important findings emerged from the surveys that informed preparations for the operational assessments in Spring 2015. More than 70 percent of test coordinators in each of seven states indicated the Field Test had either gone as well as or better than they expected. In addition, a majority of students (an average of 67 percent across five states) characterized the test interface as “easy” or “very easy” to use. This number should increase as more students experience the [Practice and Training Tests](#).

- The [Updated Teacher Factsheet](#) outlines what the assessments mean for teachers. Visit the [Teacher page](#) of the Smarter Balanced Web site for more information.
- The [Updated Computer Adaptive Factsheet](#) explains computer adaptive testing. Visit the [Computer Adaptive Testing page](#) of the Smarter Balanced Web site for more information.



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## Digital Library

The Smarter Balanced Digital Library is intended for use by all K-12 educators. [Information](#) about the Digital Library is located on the Connecticut State Department of Education Web site. Additional information including recorded "Live Tours" and "Help Topic" presentations can be found on the [Teacher page](#) of the Smarter Balanced Web site. The "Live Tours" show how to log into the Digital Library, browse for resources, and utilize the Digital Library for collaboration. For access information, refer to the [October 9, 2014, Student Assessment News](#).

## Digital Library Accounts

The Smarter Balanced contractor for the Digital Library will be forcing a password reset **just for users who have not yet logged into the Digital Library**. This will reduce the requests for manual password resets. The password reset will occur on Monday, November 10, 2014.

Below are the details:

- Users who have had Digital Library accounts created **but have never logged in** will receive an e-mail asking to reset their password.
- **All other users will be unaffected.** This includes those who actively use the Digital Library, those who have logged in at least once, and those who have not yet had an account created.
- **What Happens:** Users who have never logged in will receive a new e-mail indicating that their password to the Digital Library has been reset. They will be invited to log in using a new temporary password. Once they log in, they will be required to change the password to a permanent password and set password recovery questions.
- **Date of the Reset:** Monday, November 10, 2014.

Please notify staff members that they may receive an e-mail from "Smarter-DoNotReply [Smarter-DoNotReply@opentestsystem.org]".

## 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](http://ctcorestandards.org/?page_id=1955).

## 2014 – 15 Assessment Guidelines

[Assessment Guidelines 2014 - 15 Edition](#) is available to download from the CSDE Web site. This document includes revisions through July 2014 and is intended to provide guidance for Connecticut school district personnel who must make decisions about testing special student populations on the Smarter Balanced assessments, Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) Science, Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) Science, CMT Skills Checklist Science, CAPT Skills Checklist Science, and the Connecticut Alternate Assessments.

## Updating the Measurement Incorporated Web Portal

To ensure that information regarding the Smarter Balanced Assessment, the CMT/CAPT Science Test (including Skills Checklist), 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.

