

STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

October 9, 2014

Connecticut State Department Of Education

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SMARTER BALANCED NEWS

Interim Assessment Information

The Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments allow teachers to check student progress throughout the year giving them actionable information to inform instruction and help students meet the challenge of college- and career-ready standards. Below are the tentative release dates for the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments.

Assessment	Type	Date (tentative)
Interim Comprehensive Assessment	Fixed	December 2014
Interim Assessment Blocks	Fixed	January 2015
Interim Comprehensive Assessment	Adaptive	September 2015
Interim Assessment Blocks	Adaptive	September 2015

The [Interim Assessment Statement of Purpose](#) provides more details about the Interim Assessments. Additionally, this document includes information about the type of interim assessments that will be delivered.

Technology News

The [Technology](#) page of the Smarter Balanced Web site (www.SmarterBalanced.org) has been updated to include a link to the [Test-Taking Devices and Approved Secure Browsers](#) page. This new page features:

- a summary of testing device requirements
- a list of secure browsers that will be made available in the fall of 2014

There are also links to the updated [Technology Strategy Framework and Testing Device Requirements](#) and associated [executive summary](#).



Usability, Accessibility, & Accommodations 2014-15 Presentation

Educators have the opportunity to receive information regarding the use of accessibility features on the Smarter Balanced assessments by registering for a free online presentation or a free live presentation through this [SERC Web site](#). For those unable to participate in either of these offerings, the materials from these presentations are available for download on the [Special Population Documentation and Resources](#) page of the Connecticut State Department of Education Web site.



Assessment Suite Workshops

The Connecticut State Department of Education (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 and learn about the Smarter Balanced Assessment System, visit http://ctcorestandards.org/?page_id=1955.



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reminder

Smarter Balanced Digital Library

The Smarter Balanced Digital Library is an online collection of instructional and professional learning resources. Currently, it features more than 2,000 resources aligned to the Common Core State Standards and vetted by educators using quality criteria.

- Resources include lesson plans, unit plans, rubrics, instructional strategies, and professional learning materials.
- The Digital Library includes collaborative features that allow educators to rate resources and to pose questions and share expertise through online forums.
- The Digital Library was created by and for educators to support implementation of the Common Core State Standards using the formative assessment process.

Additional information about the Smarter Balanced Digital Library is available on the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) [Web site](#).



reminder

New Process to Create Digital Library Users

The Smarter Balanced Digital Library was recently upgraded to better support the process of adding new users. **Existing user accounts continue to allow users to log into the Digital Library.** There is a new method to create new user accounts.

To create new Digital Library accounts, prepare an Excel 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. There is no limit to the number of users allowed access within a district or school.

Sample Spreadsheet

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

The completed Excel spreadsheet should to be sent to Joe Di Garbo (Joe.DiGarbo@ct.gov) only **by the District Test Coordinator**. Once the spreadsheet is uploaded, each listed educator will receive an e-mail with access 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), 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.

