

## STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)  
September 10, 2014

Connecticut State Department Of Education  
[CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov](mailto:CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov)  
860-713-6860

### Upcoming Event: September 11, 3 - 4:00 p.m.

#### Achieve: Student Assessment Inventory for School Districts Webinar

reminder

On September 11 from 3 - 4:00 p.m., Achieve will share the [Student Assessment Inventory for School Districts](#) tool. This inventory tool is designed to guide district administrators and instructional leaders through a process to ensure the minimum number of tests are administered to provide essential instructional, diagnostic, and accountability information, and proactively address concerns about over-testing. This tool will provide an opportunity for district leaders to take stock of district assessments and make decisions based on the findings. Please [download](#) the inventory prior to the webinar.

**Dial In (Toll Free):** 1-866-297-6395

**To join the web conference on September 11 at 3 p.m.,** [CLICK HERE](#). You do not need to pre-register for the webinar.

### SMARTER BALANCED NEWS

#### Online Panel for Achievement Level Setting: Register Now!

reminder

Smarter Balanced invites K-12 educators, post-secondary educators, school administrators, parents, and community/business leaders to participate virtually in recommending achievement level scores. The Online Panel runs from October 6 - 17, 2014. Register for the Online Panel at [www.smarterbalanced.org/onlinepanel](http://www.smarterbalanced.org/onlinepanel) by September 19, 2014. For more information on Achievement Level Setting, visit the [Smarter Balanced Web site](#) and download the [Facts & FAQ](#) document.



Educators can shape the future of assessments. Make your voice heard on Smarter Balanced achievement level scores.

- Review actual test items.
- Recommend proficiency scores.
- Help establish consistent measures of student progress.

**REGISTER NOW!**  
Online Panel: October 6-17, 2014

#### Digital Library

reminder

The Smarter Balanced Digital Library is an online collection of instructional and professional learning resources. It features more than 1,800 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. A third-grade teacher from Washington state notes: "The Digital Library is full of hands-on, ready-to-use resources and strategies for teachers across the nation to create high-quality classroom lessons for students."

Additional information about the Smarter Balanced Digital Library is available on the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) [Web site](#). District Test Coordinators should contact Joe Di Garbo at [Joe.DiGarbo@ct.gov](mailto:Joe.DiGarbo@ct.gov) for access information.

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## National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) Pilot 2 Test Participation

Thank you to districts and schools who have already registered to participate in the NCSC Pilot 2 Test. The upcoming Phase 2 Pilot Test will inform the development of the operational test which will be administered to eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities in Grades 3 - 8 and 11 in the spring of 2015. The 2015 operational test in Connecticut, also referred to as the Connecticut Alternate Assessment or CTAA will ultimately replace the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist for English language arts/literacy and mathematics in Grades 3 through 8 and 11.

Districts are strongly encouraged to participate in the NCSC Pilot 2 Test being conducted from **October 20 through November 14, 2014**. Teachers and students will have the opportunity to engage with the test platform and items and to provide critical feedback for test development. The NCSC Pilot 2 will also include writing test items on some test forms. Writing will be included in the operational assessment for all students in the spring of 2015. To register please contact Janet Stuck at 860-713-6837 or via e-mail at [janet.stuck@ct.gov](mailto:janet.stuck@ct.gov) by **Monday September 15, 2014**. There are limited openings for teacher/student participation based upon the research design.

## Training Opportunities and Resources for Educators

As a reminder, teachers who will be administering the CTAA this spring are required to participate in training. *The 2014 - 15 CSDE Required Training for Connecticut Alternate Assessments* is now open as an online course, or you may register for live training. To register for either option, visit the [SERC Registration Web page](#).

Also available as both an online course or as live training is *The 2014 - 15 CSDE Smarter Balanced Usability, Accessibility & Accommodations Training*. This training will assist administrators and all teachers working with general education students, students with disabilities, and students who are English learners in understanding what accessibility options are available on the Smarter Balanced assessments. To register for either option, visit the [SERC Registration Webpage](#).

## New 2014 – 15 Assessment Guidelines

The [2014 - 15 Assessment Guidelines](#) 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.

