



STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

September 25, 2015

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

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TIDE and ORS Downtimes



The Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) will be down for maintenance from September 26 through October 5, 2015. The Online Reporting System (ORS) will be down for maintenance from October 3 through 18, 2015.

Online Reporting System Training Webinar

A [recording](#) of the Online Reporting System (ORS) training webinar is available on the Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal. The webinar provided a demonstration of the ORS to access 2015 Smarter Balanced test results.

Sample Parent and Guardian Letters

For your convenience, the Connecticut State Department of Education has drafted two sample parent and guardian letters to accompany student reports. A [Grade 3-8 sample letter](#) and a [Grade 11 sample letter](#) are available as an option for districts to modify and use when sharing results with families.

Regrettably, the printing and delivery of the Parent Guides has been delayed. Please expect hard copies to be shipped to the district's central office during the beginning of October. However, these guides are currently available online at www.ct.gov/sde/ParentGuides and will be available in seven languages.

The parent guides for currently enrolled Grade 9 students and Grade 12 students will be available online only. The content of these brochures needs to be amended to reflect the recent approval to transition from the Smarter Balanced assessments to the SAT for our high school students.

TIDE User Accounts and District Testing Contacts

The Student Assessment Office identified District Administrator (DA) roles based on who is currently identified as the District Test Coordinator in the MI Web Portal. When TIDE reopens on October 6, 2015, each district will have only **one** DA account. The single DA will be the primary district contact for all information pertaining to CMT/CAPT Science, (including Skills Checklist Science), the Connecticut Alternate Assessment, and Smarter Balanced. Upon first log in after October 6, DAs will verify all prepopulated contact and shipping information. This information will be used by the Student Assessment Office and its testing vendor to communicate with each district. All other DAs will be automatically rolled over to a DC role.



On October 6, 2015, all TIDE users will receive an e-mail from AIRAST-DoNotReply@airast.org to reset their passwords. A system reset of all TIDE users maintains security within the TIDE. District Administrators, District Coordinators and/or School Coordinators should delete any users who should no longer have TIDE accounts. **Please alert all TIDE users that they will receive an e-mail from AIRAST-DoNotReply@airast.org on October 6, 2015, to reset their password.**



DIGITAL LIBRARY

Supporting Students with Disabilities Spotlight Webinar: September 30, 2015, from 4:00 to 5:15 p.m.

The first webinar in the Supporting Students with Disabilities series, *Maximizing Access to Instruction and Testing for Students with Disabilities to Improve Achievement*, will be on September 30. In this Research-to-Practice Brief webinar, Dr. Stephen Elliott will examine the concept of accessibility in classroom instruction and large-scale testing and share research-driven strategies teachers can use to improve access for all students. Registration is required to participate in the webinar. The link to register, as well as information on the complete series, can be accessed in the [Supporting Students with Disabilities Series flier](#).

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Elimination of Retesting for CAPT Science



Due to recent state legislation ([Public Act 15-238](#)), retesting for students on the CAPT Science has been eliminated. This applies to both Grade 11 and 12 students. Districts should review and update their local graduation requirements to reflect this change.

Highlights from Connecticut's Approved Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Request

On August 6, 2015, the U.S. Department of Education approved Connecticut's renewal request for flexibility from certain requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Connecticut's approved [ESEA Flexibility Request](#) (i.e. waiver) is available online. This three-year renewal allows Connecticut to make important changes to the State's accountability system. A summary of the changes is included in a [letter from the Commissioner](#) to Superintendents. A [presentation](#) posted on the Performance Office page provides an overview of Connecticut's "next generation" accountability system.

Kindergarten Entrance Inventory

The Connecticut State Department of Education continues to administer the Kindergarten Entrance Inventory (KEI). Data are expected for all Kindergarten students enrolled in Connecticut Public Schools. District Test Coordinators are being made aware of this information as many are involved in this data collection. These data should be entered by December, but it is important to gather teacher observations as early in the year as possible. The data portal for submissions will be activated in the middle of October. More information about this effort will be sent by Gilbert Andrada in the near future. Please forward contact information for new KEI coordinators to either Kendra Shakir (Kendra.shakir@ct.gov) or Gilbert Andrada (gilbert.andrada@ct.gov).

REMINDERS:

Access the [September 18 Student Assessment News](#) for information about the following:

- Test Supports and Accommodation Form
- Smarter Balanced
 - Designated Supports/Accommodation Data Collection
 - Online Reporting System: Frequently Asked Question
 - Illustrative Mathematics Digital Library Spotlight Webinar
- National Assessment of Educational Progress



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2015-16 Important Dates

Online Reporting System Training Webinar	September 21, 2015
TIDE Down for Maintenance	September 26 – October 5, 2015
ORS Down for Maintenance	October 3 – October 18, 2015
Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments Testing Window	October 9, 2015 – June 10, 2016
National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) Results	<i>Coming Soon</i>
District Test Coordinator Workshops	<i>Tentative</i> January 19 – 22, 2016
CMT/CAPT Science Testing Window	March 1 – 29, 2016
Connecticut Alternate Assessment Testing Window	March 15 – May 27, 2016
Grade 11 Assessment	<i>Coming Soon</i>

The Connecticut State Department of Education is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. The Connecticut State Department of Education does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of **race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (including, but not limited to, intellectual disability, past or present history of mental disorder, physical disability or learning disability), genetic information, or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws. The Connecticut State Department of Education does not unlawfully discriminate in employment and licensing against qualified persons with a prior criminal conviction.** Inquiries regarding the Connecticut State Department of Education's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to:

Levy Gillespie
Equal Employment Opportunity Director/American with Disabilities Act Coordinator
Connecticut State Department of Education
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Middletown, CT
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