



STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

September 2, 2015

Connecticut State Department of Education

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860-713-6860

Individual Student Reports

Paper copies of Individual Student Reports (ISR) for Smarter Balanced English language arts/literacy and mathematics, CMT Science, and CAPT Science will be shipped to districts/schools in September. Two copies of each student's ISR will be provided, one to send to parents/guardians and the other for the student's permanent record. Additionally, districts/schools will receive paper copies of [Parent Brochures](#) to accompany these reports.

Connecticut's Comprehensive Assessment Program Public Reporting Site

A public reporting site that will allow users of the site to display Smarter Balanced results will be available soon. In the meantime, a [spreadsheet](#) with a complete list of the statewide, district and school scores is available on the [Connecticut State Department of Education \(CSDE\) Web site](#).

Smarter Balanced Educator Involvement Survey

Smarter Balanced is committed to involving educators throughout the development process. In fact, over the last few years many Connecticut educators have shared their expertise to help accomplish many tasks. There is a lot of work yet to be done. With that in mind, Smarter Balanced continues to recruit educators. Interested educators should complete the survey at: http://uclaed.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_eybCHwZCOJRy1z to provide their teaching level and areas of interest for future involvement with the development processes for Smarter Balanced summative and interim assessments. Please note that the demographic information requested is optional.

Smarter Balanced Secure Browser

The new Secure Browser will need to be downloaded and installed on computers and tablets to use the Smarter Balanced Interim and Summative assessments during the 2015-16 school year. The [Secure Browsers](#) page provides information about supported operating systems and links for downloading the new secure browsers for the 2016 test administration. Refer to the [Secure Browser Installation Manual](#) and [Technical Specifications Manual for Online Testing](#) located on the [Technology Resources](#) page for information about installing the secure browsers. In some cases, the new secure browser will override any previous versions, but in other cases the previous version needs to be uninstalled. It is recommended that the directions in the [Secure Browser Installation Manual](#) be followed so that the current secure browser is used during testing.



Support for Special Populations

The CSDE continues to prepare teachers to administer the Smarter Balanced Assessments for English language arts/literacy and mathematics. One component of the Smarter Balanced Assessment System includes understanding, selecting and providing access to the assessments. To assist administrators and teachers working with general education students, students with disabilities and students who are English learners, two optional professional learning opportunities are available.

- **Option 1:** [2015-16 ONLINE Smarter Balanced Usability, Accessibility and Accommodations Training](#)
- **Option 2:** [2015-16 LIVE Smarter Balanced Usability, Accessibility and Accommodations Training](#)

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Governor Malloy Announces Approval to Reduce Standardized Testing for Grade 11 Students

In a [press release](#) on August 6, 2015, Governor Dannel P. Malloy announced that the U.S. Department of Education has approved a waiver request he submitted on behalf of the State of Connecticut to reduce the amount of standardized testing required for public high school students. In an effort to eliminate duplicative testing, reduce over-testing, mitigate student stress, and address parental concerns, the Governor last fall sought federal approval to replace the Smarter Balanced Assessments in Grade 11 with the SAT. The CSDE will provide more information soon. Additional questions can be directed to Michelle Rosado at 860-713-6748 or Michelle.Rosado@ct.gov.



DIGITAL LIBRARY

The [Smarter Balanced Digital Library](#) is an online collection of instructional and professional learning resources contributed by educators for educators. These resources are aligned with the Common Core State Standards and will help educators implement the formative assessment process to support teaching and learning. The [Digital Library Factsheet](#) outlines the innovative design and collaboration features. For more information, visit the [CSDE Web Site](#).

Digital Library Spotlight Webinar and Forum Series

Smarter Balanced is pleased to announce two new Digital Library Spotlight Webinar and Forum series: the [Illustrative Mathematics](#) series and the [Supporting Students with Disabilities](#) series.

Spotlight Webinars, facilitated by national experts and innovative practitioners, highlight Digital Library resources related to timely and relevant topics. Authors of the resource offer a webinar to provide an overview of the resource and highlight strategies that can be used to support teaching and learning. Participants are encouraged to try the strategies featured in the webinars in their own classrooms, then join the Spotlight Forum discussions to share their experiences with each other and provide feedback to the authors.

Digital Library Resource	Webinar Date	Webinar and Forum Facilitators	Forum Dates
<i>Illustrative Mathematics 6.RP and 7.RP Module</i> https://www.smarterbalancedlibrary.org/content/illustrative-mathematics-6rp-and-7rp-module	September 15, 2015 3 – 4 p.m. Register	Bill McCallum Eli Luberoff	September 28 - October 2, 2015
<i>Illustrative Mathematics Modeling HS-F Module</i> https://www.smarterbalancedlibrary.org/content/illustrative-mathematics-modeling-hs-f-module	October 22, 2015 2 – 3 p.m. Register	Ellen Whitesides Brigitte Lahme	November 2 – November 6, 2015
<i>Illustrative Mathematics Fluency Module</i> <i>Coming soon to the Digital Library</i>	November 9, 2015 4 – 5 p.m. Register	Jody Guarino Valerie Henry	December 7 – December 11, 2015
<i>Maximizing Access to Instruction and Testing for Students with Disabilities to Improve Achievement</i> <i>Coming soon to the Digital Library</i>	September 30, 2015 4 – 5:15 p.m. Register	Stephen N. Elliott, Ph.D.	October 5 - October 9, 2015

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<p>Opportunity to Learn for All Students: Enhancing Access to What Should be Taught and Will be Tested Coming soon to the Digital Library</p>	<p>October 27, 2015 3 – 4 p.m. Register</p>	<p>Alexander Kurz, Ph.D.</p>	<p>November 9 – November 13, 2015</p>
<p>Understanding and Accelerating Achievement Growth for Students with Disabilities Coming soon to the Digital Library</p>	<p>January 12, 2016 2 – 3 p.m. Register</p>	<p>Ann Schulte, Ph.D.</p>	<p>January 25 – January 29, 2016</p>

See the [Illustrative Mathematics](#) and [Supporting Students with Disabilities](#) series fliers to register. Registration for the webinars is required. The webinars will be recorded for those who are unable to attend the live presentations. Please distribute the information to all educators who may be interested in participating in the Digital Library Spotlight Forums.

Digital Library Accounts

reminder

The CSDE is managing the Digital Library user accounts. To modify existing accounts (i.e., first/last name and e-mail address changes) or to delete accounts, District Test Coordinators should send an e-mail to Joe Di Garbo (Joe.DiGarbo@ct.gov). To create new accounts, prepare a 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.

Sample Spreadsheet

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

The completed spreadsheet should also be sent to Joe Di Garbo (Joe.DiGarbo@ct.gov) only **by the District Test Coordinator**. Once the template is uploaded, each listed educator will receive a "Welcome to the Smarter Balanced Digital Library" e-mail (from Smarter-DoNotReply [Smarter-DoNotReply@opentestsystem.org]) with access information.

Smarter Balanced and CMT/CAPT Science Results

reminder

The CSDE released statewide scores for the Smarter Balanced assessments in English language arts/literacy and mathematics on August 28, 2015. The Connecticut Mastery Test Science in Grades 5 and 8 and the Connecticut Academic Performance Test Science in Grade 10 results (including Skills Checklist Science) were also released. The [Press Release](#), [Smarter Balanced Briefing Document](#), and additional information are posted on the home page of the [CSDE Web site](#). As outlined in a previous correspondence, results for the National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) assessment will be released in the fall of 2015.

- The Smarter Balanced summative assessment results are available on the [Online Reporting System](#) (ORS). Access to the ORS is available to district personnel who have a Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) username and password. As a reminder, Test Administrator (TA) accounts do not have access to the ORS. [Smarter Balanced Reporting Information](#) is available on the CSDE Web site. The [ORS User Guide](#) and the [ORS Log In Quick Start Guide](#) provides information on using the web-based system that displays student results. Contact the American Institutes for Research (AIR) Help Desk at 844-202-7583 for login assistance.
- CMT Science and CAPT Science (including Skills Checklist Science) results can be accessed on www.ctreports.com. District personnel can log into the secure Individual Student Performance Reports site using a username and password. Contact the Student Assessment Office at 860-713-6860 for login assistance with this platform.

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Smarter Balanced Results Toolkit and Supports



The CSDE has made available the following toolkit of materials for district use. These materials may be customized when presenting Smarter Balanced results to educators, boards of education, families, and community members.

Smarter Balanced Results Toolkit and Supports	
Online Reporting System Login Quick Start	<i>This Quick Start provides steps to access the Smarter Balanced assessment results Web site.</i>
PowerPoint Template for District or School Results	<i>This slide deck is fillable and editable. It provides the basic steps of presenting district- or school-level assessment results.</i>
Back to School Smarter Balanced Presentation	<i>A presentation and a FAQ to assist in explaining the Smarter Balanced assessments.</i>
Back to School Smarter Balanced Frequently Asked Questions	
Connecticut Achievement Level Descriptions for the Smarter Balanced Assessments	<i>This document provides Connecticut Achievement Level Descriptors for Smarter Balanced English language arts/literacy and mathematics assessments.</i>
Smarter Balanced Scale Scores and Achievement Levels	<i>This document provides the Scale Score Ranges for Smarter Balanced English language arts/literacy and mathematics assessments.</i>
Smarter Balanced Sample Individual Student Report Grade 5 Grade 8 Grade 11	<i>Sample Smarter Balanced Individual Student Reports that will be shipped to districts at the beginning of the school year.</i>
Connecticut Smarter Balanced Interpretive Guide 2015	<i>This guide is designed to help educators, parents, students, the public, and members of the media understand and explain the results of the Smarter Balanced summative assessments.</i>
Parent Brochures	<i>The CSDE has developed Parent Brochures to accompany the Individual Student Reports that schools send home. Tailored by grade (for example, third grade test takers entering fourth grade, fourth grade test takers entering fifth grade, etc.), each brochure ties the previous year's standards with the upcoming year's standards and provides useful tools and strategies for parents to assist their child at home.</i>
Be A Learning Hero	<i>A Web site featuring a search engine that will help parents find helpful tools and information to support their child's learning.</i>

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The What, the How and the Why of the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Workshops



The CSDE is offering one-day workshops designed to support Grade 3 – 8 classroom teachers, instructional specialists, coaches, English language arts and mathematics department chairs, and interested administrators as they become familiar with the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments. Participants will learn about the purposes and uses for the Interim Comprehensive Assessments and the Interim Assessment Blocks for English language arts/literacy and mathematics, scoring student responses using the hand-scoring training materials, and using student scores and responses to support instruction. The English language arts/literacy and mathematics sessions are held concurrently on the dates listed below.

Location	Dates	Location	Dates	Location	Dates
ITBD 185 Main Street New Britain, CT	September 8, 2015	Trumbull Marriott Merritt Parkway 180 Hawley Lane Trumbull, CT	September 30, 2015	Norwich Holiday Inn 10 Laura Blvd. Norwich, CT	October 8, 2015
	October 5, 2015		October 9, 2015		November 17, 2015
	November 18, 2015		November 16, 2015		December 15, 2015
	December 14, 2015		December 11, 2015		January 20, 2016
	January 14, 2016		January 11, 2016		February 2, 2016

Information about registering for the workshops is available on the [CT Core Standards Web site](#). Contact Deirdre Ducharme at 860-713-6859/ Deirdre.Ducharme@ct.gov for additional information.

2015-16 Important Dates

Secure Browser Release	August 28, 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
Summative Assessment Calendar	<i>Coming Soon</i>

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Levy Gillespie
Equal Employment Opportunity Director/American with Disabilities Act Coordinator
Connecticut State Department of Education
25 Industrial Park Road
Middletown, CT
860-807-2071
Levy.Gillespie@ct.gov

