

STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

Connecticut State Department Of Education

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov

December 5, 2014

860-713-6860

Smarter Balanced Secure Browser and Test Taking Devices

An updated [Test-Taking Devices and Approved Secure Browsers](#) lists are posted on the Smarter Balanced Web site. The devices and operating systems that are supported by the Smarter Balanced test delivery system are provided.

Upcoming Smarter Balanced Expected Release Dates

The table below indicates the expected release dates for assessment resources. More details about each resource will be communicated in future *Student Assessment News*.

Resource	Expected Release Date
Smarter Balanced Portal	December 17, 2014
TIDE	Mid-January, 2015
Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments	January 27, 2015
District Test Coordinator Workshops (including CMT/CAPT Science)	January 20 -23, 2015

Digital Library

The Smarter Balanced Digital Library is intended for use by all K-12 educators. It contains Instructional and Professional Learning resources for K-12 educators to use. These resources are:



- Contributed by educators for educators;
- Vetted against a set of quality criteria;
- Supported by research and evidence; and
- Annotated with common information such as connection to the formative assessment process, learning goals, and success criteria.

Access the Smarter Balanced Digital Library to view resources that support teaching and learning.

Connecticut Alternate Assessments (CTAA) and National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC)

The [Connecticut Alternate Assessment \(CTAA\)](#) is Connecticut’s new summative alternate assessment aligned to the Connecticut Core Standards for students with significant cognitive disabilities. It was developed in collaboration with the [National Center and State Collaborative \(NCSC\)](#) consortium and will be administered for the first time in the spring of 2015. The testing window is **March 30 – May 15, 2015**. This assessment replaces the CMT and CAPT Skills Checklist for English language arts and Mathematics for Grades 3 – 8 and 11.

Similar to CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist, this assessment also requires a trained educator to administer the test individually to students. All educators instructing students eligible for the CTAA/NCSC are required to receive training through the Connecticut State Department of Education. This training is available as either live training or as an online course. In either case, educators should register through the [SERC Web site](#). Over 230 educators have attended the live training and over 950 have registered for the online course. District Test Coordinators (DTC) interested in knowing who has completed this training can check on the [Measurement Incorporated \(MI\) web portal](#) under *CAPT Skills Checklist Certified Users* or *CMT Skills Checklist Certified Users* links. Additional online trainings on the actual components of administering and submitting the test online will be available by NCSC closer to the time of testing.



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Finally, students who are eligible for the CTAA/NCSC and are in Grades 5 or 8 are required to be administered the CMT Skills Checklist Science. Students in Grade 10 who are eligible are required to **only** be administered the CAPT Skills Checklist Science. Questions can be directed to Janet Stuck (janet.stuck@ct.gov/860-713-6837) or Joe Amenta (joseph.amenta@ct.gov/860-713-6855).

Resources for the CTAA/NCSC:

- [NCSC Newsletter and Website Information for Parents](#): A one page summary of the NCSC Project and parent resources.
- [NCSC Answers to Common Parent Questions about Alternate Assessments](#): NCSC's answers to questions parents commonly ask regarding alternate assessments.
- [NCSC Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Alternate Assessment](#): A summary of the frequently asked questions document developed for educators.
- [NCSC Discussion Points with Research References](#): Provides discussion points, summary of research and references, around students with significant cognitive disabilities and alternate assessments.
- [NCSC IEP Team Guidance for Alternate Assessment Participation Decisions](#): This document is intended as an IEP Team Guidance document in determining which students qualify for CTAA.
- [NCSC Commitment to Students' Communicative Competence](#): A discussion of the importance of effective communication for students with significant cognitive disabilities and an explanation of why it is the foundation for the NCSC's comprehensive model of instruction and assessment.
- [NCSC Discussion of College and Career Readiness for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities](#): A description of what "college and career readiness" means for students with significant cognitive disabilities and why a "college and career ready" education is important for success in the community.
- [Comparison Table CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist & Connecticut Alternate Assessment](#)

OTHER STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS REMINDERS

Connecticut Summative Assessments 2014 – 15

State Assessment	Grade(s)	Testing Window	Total Testing Time per Student	Delivery Method
CMT/CAPT Science	5, 8 and 10	March 2 – 27	65 minutes - Grade 5 70 minutes - Grade 8 50 minutes each (2 sessions) - Grade 10	Paper/pencil delivery except for students requiring accommodations through MIST.*
CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science	5, 8 and 10	Upload Dates: March 2 – 27	Not Applicable	Completed through the MI Web Portal.
NCSC/Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA)	3 – 8 and 11	March 30 – May 15	Time will vary by student.	Online
Smarter Balanced ELA/Literacy & Math	3 – 8	March 17 – June 12	Approximately 6 – 6.5 hours**	Online
Smarter Balanced ELA/Literacy & Math	11	April 27 – June 12	Approximately 7 – 7.5 hours**	Online

* CMT/CAPT Science test items will be piloted online.

** Total testing times are estimates for most students and are provided for scheduling purposes. Smarter Balanced assessments are designed as untimed tests; some students may need more or less time.

NOTE: There is no scheduled "System Downtime" for the testing windows.

NOTE: The CSDE will not be offering a Paper/Pencil option for Smarter Balanced tests.



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reminder

Smarter Balanced Assessment Approximate Test Length

The table below provides approximate test lengths for most students. Smarter Balanced assessments are designed as **untimed tests**; some students may need and should be afforded more time than shown in this table.

It is recommended that schools schedule test sessions for 40 – 60 minute blocks of time, as appropriate for students. Schools may schedule more than one test session per day, so students will typically spend 1 to 2 hours per day on the assessments over several days. Because the tests are computer adaptive, each student will be administered a different set of test items. It is therefore not necessary to administer the same test to all students within a grade at the same time. This will provide schools with the opportunity to maximize instructional time during the testing window.

The Classroom Activity of the performance task should be administered in a classroom setting and will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Classroom Activities do not require the use of computers. It is recommended that the Classroom Activity be administered no more than 3 days before the performance task. Test administrators will be provided with scripts to administer the Classroom Activity. The Classroom Activities are designed to ensure that all students understand the context of the performance task topic.

Smarter Balanced Approximate Assessment Test Length

Content Area	Grades	Computer Required			Classroom Activity	Total
		CAT	PT Only	Total		
English language arts/Literacy	3-5	1:30	2:00	3:30	0:30	4:00
	6-8	1:30	2:00	3:30	0:30	4:00
	11	2:00	2:00	4:00	0:30	4:30
Mathematics	3-5	1:30	1:00	2:30	0:30	3:00
	6-8	2:00	1:00	3:00	0:30	3:30
	11	2:00	1:30	3:30	0:30	4:00
Combined	3-5	3:00	3:00	6:00	1:00	7:00
	6-8	3:30	3:00	6:30	1:00	7:30
	11	4:00	3:30	7:30	1:00	8:30

reminder

District Test Coordinator Workshops – Save the Date!

District Test Coordinator Workshops are tentatively scheduled for the week of January 20 – 23, 2015, at the Institute of Business and Technology Development (ITBD) in New Britain. Registration information will be distributed in December. Training will be provided for the administration of the Smarter Balanced assessments for English language arts/literacy and mathematics, CMT/CAPT Science, CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science Assessment, and the Connecticut Alternate Assessments (NCSC) for English language arts and mathematics.

reminder

Assessment Reduction Grant

The [Assessment Reduction Grant](#) was released by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) on November 19, 2014. Please see the [announcement letter](#) from Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Dianna Roberge-Wentzell. The submission date for proposals is January 9, 2015.



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CSDE Accommodations Collection Web site

The [CSDE Accommodations Collection Web site](#) is open to enter information for students taking Smarter Balanced Assessments, CMT/CAPT Science, CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science and Connecticut Alternate Assessments (CTAA). 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/860-713-6855) or Janet Stuck (janet.stuck@ct.gov/860-713-6837) for additional 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 Science), 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.

