



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: District Test Coordinators

FROM: Janet Stuck and Joe Amenta
Education Consultants
Academic Office

DATE: June 20, 2014

SUBJECT: 2014-15 Smarter Balanced Usability, Accessibility & Accommodations Training

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) continues to prepare teachers to administer the Smarter Balanced Assessments for English language arts/literacy and mathematics to all students in Grades 3-8 and 11 in the spring of 2015. One component of the Smarter Balanced Assessment system includes understanding, selecting and providing access to the assessment. To assist administrators and all teachers working with general education students, students with disabilities and students who are English learners we have created two types of optional professional learning opportunities for these topics.

- **Option 1: 2014-15 ONLINE Smarter Balanced Usability, Accessibility and Accommodations Training** is a professional learning opportunity presented as an ONLINE course. Information provided during this training will allow participants supporting students assessed with the Smarter Balanced Assessments, to understand what accessibility options are available. This focus includes students with disabilities, students with a Section 504 plan, students identified as English learners (EL), as well as general education students.

Participants in this professional learning opportunity will:

- Review legal and practical implications of providing supports/accommodations;
- Identify supports/accommodations allowed on statewide assessments and the rationale for inclusion and provision to a student;
- Identify designated supports allowed on statewide assessments and the rationale for inclusion and provision to a student;
- Distinguish between supports/accommodations for instruction and/or statewide assessment; and
- Review the assessment selection process.

Accessing the 2014-15 ONLINE Smarter Balanced Usability, Accessibility and Accommodations Training

Go to <http://ctserc.org/SmarterBalancedUAA> (to be activated August 29, 2014).

- **Option 2: 2014-15 LIVE Smarter Balanced Usability, Accessibility and Accommodations Training** is a professional learning activity that will be presented at each of the six Regional Educational Service Centers (RES C). Morning and afternoon sessions will be available depending on enrollment numbers. Information provided during this training is compatible to the online version listed above. **Pre-registration is required.**

2014-2015 LIVE CSDE CT Smarter Balanced Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Training			
RES C	Date	AM Session 8:30-12:00	PM Session 12:30-4:00
CREC	Friday September 26, 2014	Maximum 25 Capacity:	Maximum 25 Capacity:
ED Connection	Wednesday November 19, 2014	Maximum 75 Capacity:	Maximum 75 Capacity:
CES	Friday November 21, 2014	Maximum 50 Capacity:	Maximum 50 Capacity:
EASTCONN	Friday December 5, 2014	Maximum 70 Capacity:	Maximum 70 Capacity:
LEARN	Wednesday January 28, 2015	Maximum 40 Capacity:	Maximum 40 Capacity:
ACES	Friday January 30, 2015	Maximum 60 Capacity:	Maximum 60 Capacity:
<i>SNOW DAY, if needed</i>	<i>Thursday January 29, 2015</i>		

Accessing the 2014-15 LIVE Smarter Balanced Usability, Accessibility and Accommodations Training

The Online Registration process will be available beginning in July.

- Go to www.ctserc.org;
- Click on Professional Development tab at the top of the page;
- Access the List or Calendar function on the right to register for the appropriate session; and
- Register with your name, role, and school e-mail address.

If you have additional questions, please contact Janet Stuck or Joe Amenta in the Academic Office. Their contact information is as follows:

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