



STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

April 5, 2016

[Archived Assessment News](#)

CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov

860-713-6860

Connecticut Alternate Assessments (CTAA)

The CTAA Window Opens on April 18, 2016.

Beginning April 18, Teacher Test Administrators who have been trained will be able to administer the CTAA in mathematics and English language arts/Literacy to eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities. These students qualify for this assessment through the Planning and Placement Team meeting process.

As a reminder, Learner Characteristic Inventories (LCIs) for qualified students should have been submitted and uploaded to the Data Entry Interface (DEI) by February 15, 2016. The DEI is no longer open, therefore, if you have questions regarding the status of an LCI submission, please contact the Office of Assessment at 860-713-6860. Also note that **"Alt Flag"** field must be selected for a student to access the CTAA. This is located in the student file in the Test Information Distribution Engine ([TIDE](#)).



CTAA Resources

In preparation for the CTAA administration, please refer to the [Connecticut Alternate Assessment Test Preparation](#) memo as it contains details about teacher training and resources.

Teachers and district administrators may determine next steps by referencing the Alternate Assessments page accessed via the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal. Resources supporting some of these next steps include:

- Reviewing the [CTAA Test Administration Manual](#) (developed for Teacher Test Administrators and District/School Coordinators) regarding policies and procedures for the CTAA in mathematics and English language arts/literacy;
- Accessing the [CTAA Practice Test](#), available on April 4, which will help teacher test administrators and students become familiar with the online testing environment and its available assessment features, as well as provide an opportunity to verify the compatibility of assistive technology;
- Determining if the [CTAA Assessing Students Who Are Blind, Deaf or Deaf-Blind: Additional Guidance for Test Administration](#) should be used with the Directions for Test Administration (available April 18);
- Confirming that a student in Grade 3 or 4 requires a verbal or non-verbal test form; and
- Preparing to administer the Student Response Check (SRC) (used to verify that the student has a consistent observable response as described in CSDE training).

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Connecticut Smarter Balanced

Smarter Balanced Assessments are Open for Administration through June 10, 2016.

Enhancements to the Test Administrator (TA) Interface

The CSDE has implemented changes to the TA Interface to minimize confusion by district staff when selecting the summative or interim tests. A new color-coded “decision-tree” outlines the assessment the user is administering (see below). Choices include:

1. Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment in **blue**; and
2. Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment in **green**.

“Decision-Tree” Screenshot for 2015-16

The screenshot shows a 'Test Selection' window with an 'Expand All' button. Below the title bar, there is a instruction: 'Choose the tests to add to your session, and then start your session.' There are two rows of test options, each with a plus sign icon and a checkbox:

- Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments (highlighted in blue)
- Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments (highlighted in green)

Note: On April 18, 2016, the CTAA (coded in **orange**) will appear in the “decision-tree” menu.

After selecting the assessment of choice, an “alert message” appears to help ensure that the test administrators select the proper assessment.

Using the Online Reporting System to Plan and Manage Testing

The **Online Reporting System (ORS)** can be used to report the progress of testing. As shown below, users can utilize the **Plan and Manage Testing** menu to filter by assessments (CMT/CAPT Science, Science Skills Checklist, and Smarter Summative) and grade.

The screenshot shows the 'Plan and Manage Testing' menu. At the top, it says 'Now viewing: Scores for students who were mine w administration'. Below that, there is a dropdown menu for 'Step 1: Choose' with options: CMT/CAPT Science, Science Skills Checklist, Smarter ICA, Smarter IAB, and Smarter Summative. Below the dropdown, there are several filter fields:

- Test: Smarter Summative
- Administration: 2015-2016
- Test Name: Grade 4 MATH
- Enrolled Grade: 05
- Filter By: ALL

Online Testing Progress Reports and **TA Reports** can be generated from the **Plan and Manage Testing** menu. These give users the ability to view, print, export, or download information on the number of students who have completed each test. More information about these reports can be found on pages 74-82 in the [Online Reporting System User Guide](#).

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Connecticut Smarter Balanced Continued



Device Support Update

AIR now supports Chrome OS 49 and iOS 9.3 for student testing. In addition, a new iOS mobile secure browser, version 3.3, is now available to download in the app store. This new mobile secure browser version will resolve a known issue where students who use the text-to-speech tool on iPads subsequently encountered issues with listening stimuli on the Smarter Balanced ELA assessments.

Appeals

Test security incidents requiring action for individuals or groups of students must be **entered into the Appeals module of TIDE**. In most situations, the CSDE will process appeals within 24 hours. To expedite this process, be sure to provide explicit details regarding the irregularity when submitting an appeal. More information regarding testing improprieties, irregularities, and breaches can be found in the [Smarter Balanced: Summative Assessment Test Administration Manual](#) or the [Smarter Balanced: Summative Assessment Test Coordinator's Manual](#).

Digital Library Accounts

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 Cristi Alberino (Cristi.Alberino@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 Cristi Alberino 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@smarterbalanced.org) with access information.

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TIDE/PSIS Data Sync and New Data Elements in PSIS

TIDE–Related Assessments

District Test Coordinators and Public School Information System (PSIS) Coordinators need to understand the following changes to PSIS and its relationship with the Test Information and Distribution Engine (TIDE). A few weeks ago, the CSDE refreshed the student-level data in PSIS.

District Test Coordinators will need to work with their District PSIS Coordinators to ensure student information is still accurately being reported in the PSIS **Registration Module**, and subsequently in TIDE. PSIS Coordinators should make all changes to student enrollment and demographic information directly in the PSIS **Registration Module**. Changes appear in TIDE the day after those changes are made in the PSIS **Registration Module**.

Any changes to a student’s status at the time of testing should be made directly in the PSIS Registration Module.

On February 22, 2016, the CSDE added two new fields to the *Spring 2016 Connecticut Testing Demographic Status* section of the PSIS **Registration Module**. The new fields are **Section 504** and **Recently Arrived EL**.

The definitions of these fields are:

- **Section 504:** Under federal law, Section 504 students are those who require a Section 504 plan. A local 504 team identifies appropriate academic supports such as accommodations and modifications for individual students. A Section 504 plan is provided for a student to ensure equitable access to general education standards and curricula.
- **Recently Arrived EL:** Students who are English Learners (EL) can be identified as *Recently Arrived EL* if their initial entry date in a U.S. school is less than two years (i.e., 24 months) prior to test administration.

Districts should now enter the status of students who qualify for these fields in the PSIS **Registration Module**.

It is important to note, too, that as part of the recent system refresh, some fields were automatically updated to assist in accurate reporting. The CSDE updated the fields of EL, Special Education, and Free/Reduced Lunch Eligible. These values became the same as they were in the PSIS **Registration Module** as reported in the **January 2016 PSIS Collection**.

Even though many districts have been maintaining these changes in the PSIS **Registration Module** as they occurred, there may be some cases in EL, Special Education, and Free/Reduced Lunch Eligible where the rules that govern the update will have defaulted a student back to his or her January status. This will necessitate a further district check and careful update in the PSIS **Registration Module** by PSIS Coordinators

CTAA

Connecticut Alternate Assessment

Smarter
Balanced
Assessment Consortium

CMT/CAPT
SCIENCE

SAT

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TIDE/PSIS Data Sync and New Data Elements in PSIS Continued

to be sure that the current status is accurately reflected in PSIS. Updating accurately in PSIS will result in accurate reporting in TIDE. The values in PSIS should indicate a **student's status at the time of testing**. PSIS information will then be reflected in TIDE for all of the following assessments.

- Smarter Balanced;
- Connecticut Alternate Assessments (CTAA);
- CMT/CAPT Science; and
- CMT/CAPT Science Skills Checklist.

Student demographic values will be saved and the fields locked in PSIS on June 10, 2016. Students who enroll from outside the Connecticut public schools after June 6, 2016, will not be required to be administered the Smarter Balanced assessments. These students will not be uploaded into TIDE.

PSIS and the Connecticut SAT School Day

PSIS demographic values should also be updated as necessary to indicate a student's status at the time of testing for the Connecticut SAT School Day.

For any student who participated in the March 2, 2016, Connecticut SAT School Day administration, the PSIS **Registration Module** should indicate their correct demographic status **at the time of that testing**. Likewise, for students who will be taking the Connecticut SAT School Day on the April 27, 2016, makeup date, their status **at the time of that test** should be accurately reflected in the PSIS **Registration Module**.

Though Connecticut SAT School Day participation will not be reflected in TIDE, accurate reporting for these students in PSIS will help ensure accurate statewide test reporting for the Connecticut SAT School Day. **Please note the grade recorded in PSIS should always reflect the grade in which the student is being educated.**

Register for email updates

To automatically receive the *Student Assessment News* and/or other announcements, [register for e-mail updates](#) on the Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal.

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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 06457
860-807-2071
levi.gillespie@ct.gov

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