



STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

November 14, 2016

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

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Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Updates

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Interim Assessment Webinars

Five webinars have been scheduled in November and January to provide Connecticut educators with the most up-to-date information regarding the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments for 2016-17. These webinars are for returning users and new users of the Interim Assessment. A description of each webinar, date and time it is being offered, and information on how to register is included in the [Interim Assessment Webinar flyer](#). Information about the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment is available on our [Web site](#). E-mail [Deirdre Ducharme](#) or [Cristi Alberino](#) in the Bureau of Student Assessment for more information.

A recorded version of the first webinar presented on November 3, 2016, titled [What's New on the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments?](#) is available on our Web site. It provides updates on the supporting systems unique to the 2016-17 Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments for mathematics and English language arts/literacy, including the Teacher Hand Scoring System, the Assessment Viewing Application, the Online Reporting System and the new AIR Ways interim reporting system.

Interim Assessment Materials

The following materials are available to assist with the administration of the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment:

[Interim Assessment Test Administration Manual](#) provides information for Test Examiners administering the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments in English language arts/literacy and mathematics.

[AIR Ways User Guide](#) provides instructions and support for users viewing student interim assessment performance reports in AIR Ways.

[Assessment Viewing Application \(AVA\) User Guide](#) provides an overview of how to access and use the AVA. The AVA allows teachers to view items on the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments.

[How to Activate a Test Session](#) provides instructions on how to activate a test session for the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment.



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TIDE Test Setting and the Test Supports/Accommodation Form Webinar

A webinar titled *Test Information and Distribution Engine (TIDE) Test Settings and the Test Supports/Accommodation Form* will be held on **Thursday, November 17, 2016, from 3:00-4:00 p.m.** This webinar is intended for school and district personnel who will be entering designated supports and accommodations in TIDE. Information will be provided about using the new TIDE testing setting system for entering designated supports and accommodations for students and how it relates to information included on the [CSDE Test Supports/Accommodation form](#) for the Smarter Balanced Interim and Summative Assessments and the CMT/CAPT Science Assessments. Information will be provided for entering designated supports and accommodations for individual students, as well as groups of students.

Please register for this webinar [here](#). E-mail [Joe Amenta](#) if you need more information.

CMT and CAPT Science Results

Results for the 2016 Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) Science are now available on [EdSight](#) under the Performance link. Interactive reports are available at the school, district and state levels. The [CMT/CAPT Science Report Notes](#) help provide guidance and general information about the science assessments including how to interpret the scores. Additional information can be found in the [CMT and CAPT Science Program Overview](#).

As a reminder, **starting in spring 2017 the CMT and CAPT Science will be administered online for almost all students.** Braille and Large Print versions of the test will still be available for the CMT and CAPT Science.

Also, starting with the spring 2017 administration, text-to-speech (TTS) will be available to all students as a designated support. Designated supports are those features available for use by any student for whom the need has been indicated by an educator (or team of educators with parent/guardian and student). See the current version of the [Assessment Guidelines](#) for further details about the use of TTS for the CMT and CAPT Science.



English Language Proficiency Testing

The annual English Language Proficiency (ELP) testing window will run from January 3, through March 10, 2017. This year, **LAS Links, Form D will be administered.** As in previous years, the Kindergarten-Grade 2 assessments will be administered using paper and pencil. We encourage districts to consider administering the online assessment for Grades 3-12, but paper and pencil is still available at those grade levels. Please note, that for the first time this year, decisions about online versus paper and pencil administration may be made at the **student level**, rather than by grade level, which was past practice.

Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) will be providing four half-day trainings at ACES on **December 14 and 15, 2016.** Sessions will be offered from 8:30-11:30 a.m. or 12:30-3:30 p.m. each day. During the half-day training they will address: scheduling online test sessions, reporting accommodations, and how to successfully administer the LAS Links Online. Districts may send up to three participants to the in-person training. Registration information can be found [here](#). A webinar is also in development and will be available to all districts on demand. More information will be forthcoming. If you have questions, please e-mail [Megan Alubicki Flick](#) or [Joe Di Garbo](#).



Connecticut Alternate Assessment



Connecticut SAT School Day



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Connecticut SAT School Day Updates



Connecticut SAT School Day ELA and Mathematics Workshops

The College Board, in conjunction with the CSDE, will be providing several train-the-trainer workshops in November and December in the areas of English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. The workshops are intended to prepare school and district staff to train their teams on content of the SAT. Each school (including Approved Private Special Education Programs) can register **two staff members** to participate in a half-day workshop. Department leaders, teachers, curriculum specialists or others who expect to present this training to their respective district teams are invited to attend. Details about each session and information about registration can be found [here](#).

Connecticut SAT School Day Accommodations Webinar Available

The [PowerPoint presentation](#) and [PowerPoint with notes](#) from the webinar regarding accommodations for students with individualized education programs (IEPs), 504 Plans and English Learners on the Connecticut SAT School Day are available. A recorded version of the webinar is available [here](#).

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Updates

NAEP Recruitment

More than 250 Connecticut schools are in the midst of preparing for the 2017 administration of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Beginning in the last week of January, selected Connecticut Grade 4 and 8 students will be participating in assessments of mathematics, reading, writing, civics, geography, and U.S. history.

Periodically, NAEP recruits retired Connecticut educators to join their field staff as assessment administrators. These are the individuals who administer the NAEP to our students. If you know people with whom you have worked over the years that might be interested in joining the NAEP for the 2017 administration, please encourage them to apply by visiting www.westat.com/CAREERS and select "Search Field Data Collection Jobs." Search for Connecticut, find the NAEP Assessment Administrator position, and select the "apply to job" button.

NAEP 2015 Science Results Released

[Results](#) from the 2015 administration of the NAEP science assessments were released on October 27, 2016. Reports include national and state-level results for Grades 4 and 8, and national data for Grade 12. For more information about the NAEP, please visit the [Connecticut NAEP web page](#). Please contact [Renee Savoie](#) if you have any questions.

Advanced Placement Readers

The College Board is recruiting high school Advanced Placement (AP) teachers to score AP exams for 2017. Advanced Placement Readers often describe AP reading as one of the best professional development experiences they have ever experienced. To find out more about this opportunity, please visit the [College Board's AP Central web page](#).



Special Populations Updates

Clarification of TEA User Role for Alternate Assessment

Every teacher administering the Smarter Balanced Assessments, the CMT or CAPT Science, the Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) and the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science must have their own username and password to access the CSDE Portal and the TIDE system. For teachers administering the Alternate Assessments (the CTAA and/or the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science) the District Administrator (DA), District Coordinator (DC), or School Coordinator (SC) must assign the user role of TEA (Teacher Administering the Alternate) rather than the TE (teacher) role. This will allow these teachers to have the same access permissions as their colleagues with the teacher role, in addition to the critical Alternate Assessment required permissions such as access to the *Directions for Test Administration for the CTAA*.

Assessment Guidelines

The [2016-17 Assessment Guidelines](#) is posted to the Student Assessment web page under [Special Populations Documentation and Resources](#). This resource provides guidance to Connecticut school district personnel who must make decisions about testing special student populations on the Smarter Balanced Assessments, CMT Science, the CAPT Science, CMT Skills Checklist Science, the CAPT Skills Checklist Science, and the CTAA. These special student populations include students identified as eligible for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), students identified as disabled under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and students who are identified as English Learners (EL). This decision making also includes general education students who may require additional supports.

2016-17 Test Supports and Accommodations Form

The updated [2016-17 Test Supports and Accommodations Form](#) used to document the Smarter Balanced and CMT/CAPT Science supports and accommodations for students with disabilities or English Learners is available.

Parent Overview of Connecticut's Alternate Assessment System

The [Parent Overview of Connecticut's Alternate Assessment System](#) is now available. This overview for parents/guardians describes components and resources for Connecticut's Alternate Assessment System designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

Text-to-Speech and Read Aloud Guidelines and Form

The [Text-to-Speech and Read Aloud Decision Guidelines 2016-17](#) form must be completed for any student in Grades 3 through 8 who will receive the accommodation of Text-to-Speech or Read Aloud of English language arts/literacy (ELA) reading passages on the Smarter Balanced assessments. This form can be completed online and submitted by clicking on the **SUBMIT FORM** button. The [Text-to-Speech and Read Aloud Decision Guidelines 2015-16](#) created by Smarter Balanced will provide you with information about determining if a student qualifies to receive this accommodation.

Managing Student Test Settings in TIDE

The [Managing Student Test Settings in TIDE](#) brochure provides a brief overview on how to manage student test settings in TIDE. Students' embedded accommodations, non-embedded accommodations, and designated supports must be set in TIDE prior to test administration for these settings to be reflected in the online test delivery system.



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2016-17 Important Dates

Event	Dates
The secure browsers for the 2016-17 school year must be downloaded for all 2016-17 online test administrations	Already available
Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments Testing Window (ICA and IAB) and Interim Assessment Teacher Hand Scoring System	October 18, 2016-June 9, 2017
District Administrator/Test Center Supervisor Workshops	Week of January 16, 2017
Connecticut Smarter Balanced Assessment Window	Monday, March 27, 2017-Friday, May 26, 2017
CMT/CAPT Science and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science	Monday, March 27, 2017-Friday, April 28, 2017
Connecticut Alternate Assessment	Monday March 27, 2017-Friday, May 26, 2017
Connecticut SAT School Day	Wednesday, April 5, 2017 (Makeup dates: April 25 and April 26)

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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