



## Special Population Updates

Use the quick links below to access articles or sections included in this newsletter.

[CT SAT School Day Updates](#)

[Smarter Balanced Updates](#)

[ORS and TIDE Updates](#)

[2016-17 Connecticut State Department of Education Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Training](#)

[Connecticut State Department of Education Comprehensive Assessment Resources](#)

2016-17  
Important Dates

[Register for E-mail Updates](#)

### Assessment Guidelines

The [2016-17 Assessment Guidelines](#) is now 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, Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) Science, the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) Science, CMT Skills Checklist Science, the CAPT Skills Checklist Science, and the Connecticut Alternate Assessment (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.



## STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS September 27, 2016

### Connecticut SAT School Day Updates

#### Reporting FAQ

A new resource has been added to the Connecticut SAT School Day [web page](#). [Connecticut SAT School Day Reporting FAQ](#) provides a side-by-side comparison of the results you will find on the College Board Online Scoring Portal and the CSDE's EdSight.

#### Verification of Information

An e-mail was sent to District Administrators (DA) on September 26, 2016, requesting that each DA verify key information for each high school in their district. The information includes the Test Center Supervisor, who is the main contact for the Connecticut SAT School Day, and back-up Test Center Supervisor, Principal and mailing address for the school. The correct information is very important as it will be used for delivery of e-mails regarding the Connecticut SAT School Day, as well as the delivery of test materials. Please contact [Michelle Rosado](#) if you did not receive this e-mail.

### Smarter Balanced Updates

#### Smarter Results on

Final aggregate 2015-16 Smarter Balanced results for all districts, schools, and student groups are now available on [EdSight](#). The results include average vertical scale scores, as well as performance by achievement level. Participation rates are also included. Please email any questions to [EDsight.SDE@ct.gov](mailto:EDsight.SDE@ct.gov).

### Suppression Guidelines

Did you ever wonder why certain categories in the data presented by the CSDE were not reported? The CSDE must abide by the rules for suppression under FERPA. The [Data Suppression Guidelines](#) include the suppression rules that meet FERPA requirements.

### Performance Office Newsletter

Want to stay up-to-date with all the news from the Performance Office? Then sign up to receive *Performance Matters*, the monthly newsletter from the Performance Office. To sign up, please contact Shondel Edwards by email at [shondel.edwards@ct.gov](mailto:shondel.edwards@ct.gov).



**STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS**  
**September 27, 2016**

**Upcoming Smarter Balanced Webinars**

**Technology Webinar**

A new secure browser will need to be installed on testing computers for the 2016-17 administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessments. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and American Institutes for Research (AIR) will be hosting a webinar that will cover details related to this installation, as well as other technological requirements for testing this year and necessary information about voice packs for those needing the text-to-speech accommodation. This webinar is appropriate for technology coordinators and any school staff responsible for preparing computers for online test administrations.

Live training will occur on Wednesday, [September 28, 2016, 2:15 – 3:00 p.m. ET](#). **To register, click on the date.** After registering, a confirmation e-mail containing information about joining the webinar will be sent to the e-mail address you provided during registration.

If you miss the live training, you will be able to access a recorded version of the webinar through the web portal at <http://ct.portal.airast.org/> soon afterwards.

**TIDE Webinar**

An improved version of the Test Information and Distribution Engine (TIDE) will be released on October 6. Prior to this release, the CSDE and AIR will be hosting a webinar that will introduce and train on the new features and provide tips for navigating the improved system. The TIDE Training Webinar is appropriate for anyone in the school system who uses the TIDE system.

Live training will occur on Thursday, [September 29, 2016, 3:30 – 4:30 P.M. ET](#). **To register, click on the date.** After registering, a confirmation e-mail containing information about joining the webinar will be sent to the e-mail address you provided during registration.

If you miss the live training, you will be able to access a recorded version of the webinar through the web portal at <http://ct.portal.airast.org/> soon afterwards.



**ORS Update**

The **ORS** is going to be down from October 15-17, 2016, preparation for the 2015-16 Interim assessment reporting.

**TIDE Update**

The **TIDE** system is currently down for maintenance until October 6, 2016, in support of the 2016-17 school year.

**STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS**  
**September 27, 2016**

**Individual Student Reports for Smarter Balanced, Science, and Skills Checklist Science**

Paper copies of Individual Student Reports (ISRs) for Smarter Balanced English language arts/literacy and mathematics, the CMT/CAPT Science, and the Skills Checklist Science should have arrived in districts by September 16, 2016. Two copies of each student’s ISR were provided; one to send to parents/guardians and the other for the student’s permanent record. Approved Private Special Education Programs should have received ISRs for students who they tested. Contact the AIR Help Desk at 844-202-7583 if you have questions about the shipment.

**2016-17 Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Training**

On August 18, 2016, District Administrators (DAs) were e-mailed a [letter](#) regarding the *2016-17 CSDE Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Training*, and the required *2016-17 CSDE Alternate Assessment System Training*. Like last year, both online and live options are available. Depending on enrollment, morning sessions are repeated in the afternoon at each site. Below are the locations and dates for the live trainings. Direct any questions to Joe Amenta at [joseph.amenta@ct.gov](mailto:joseph.amenta@ct.gov) or Janet Stuck at [janet.stuck@ct.gov](mailto:janet.stuck@ct.gov).

<b>2016-17 CSDE LIVE Usability, Accessibility, &amp; Accommodations Training</b>	
<b>RESC</b>	<b>Date</b>
Ed Vance	October 7, 2016
CES	October 28, 2016
EASTCONN	November 3, 2016
ACES	November 15, 2016
CREC	January 5, 2017
LEARN	January 6, 2017

<b>2016-17 CSDE LIVE Alternate Assessment System Training</b>	
<b>RESC</b>	<b>Date</b>
ACES	October 3, 2016
CES	October 13, 2016
EASTCONN	October 17, 2016
LEARN	November 18, 2016

**STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS**  
**September 27, 2016**

**Connecticut State Department of Education Comprehensive Assessment Resources**

Connecticut Assessments	Results and Press Release	Resources
The 2016 CMT Science (Grades 5 and 8), the CAPT Science (Grade 10), and the Skills Checklist Science (Grades 5, 8, and 10)	Released on September 6, 2016, preliminary data are available on the <a href="#">Online Reporting System (ORS)</a> . Click here to read the <a href="#">press release</a> .	CMT Science Parent Brochure: Understanding the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) Science <a href="#">English</a> ; <a href="#">Spanish</a>  CAPT Science <a href="#">Parent Brochure</a> : Understanding the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) Science
The 2016 Smarter Balanced test results in English language arts and mathematics (Grades 3-8)	Released on August 18, 2016, preliminary data are available via the <a href="#">ORS</a> and <a href="#">EdSight</a> . Click here to read the <a href="#">press release</a> .	<a href="#">2016 Communication Tools for Smarter Balanced</a>  <a href="#">Parent Guides</a> (Grades 4-9)
The 2016 Connecticut SAT School Day (Grade 11)	Released on August 3, 2016, preliminary data are available on <a href="#">EdSight</a> . District, school, and subgroup performance data are expected to be released in September. Click here to read the <a href="#">press release</a> .	<a href="#">2016 Connecticut SAT School Day Resources</a>
The Connecticut Alternate Assessments in English language arts and mathematics (Grades 3-8 and 11)	Preliminary results are expected to be released this fall.	

**Smarter Balanced Digital Library (an optional resource for districts)**

**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 (DTCs) should send an e-mail to Cristi Alberino ([cristi.alberino@ct.gov](mailto:cristi.alberino@ct.gov)). To *create* new accounts, prepare an Excel 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			



**STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS**  
**September 27, 2016**

**Smarter Balanced Digital Library (an optional resource for districts), continued**

The DA (only) should send the completed Excel spreadsheet to Cristi Alberino. 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.

Contact Cristi Alberino at [cristi.alberino@ct.gov](mailto:cristi.alberino@ct.gov) with any questions.

**2016-17 Important Dates**

 Event	Dates
The <a href="#">secure browsers for the 2016-17 school year</a> 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 Test Coordinator Workshops	TBD (Tentatively the 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.

The Connecticut State Department of Education is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. The Connecticut State Department of Education does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of **race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (including, but not limited to, intellectual disability, past or present history of mental disorder, physical disability or learning disability), genetic information, or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws. The Connecticut State Department of Education does not unlawfully discriminate in employment and licensing against qualified persons with a prior criminal conviction.** Inquiries regarding the Connecticut State Department of Education's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to:

Levy Gillespie  
Equal Employment Opportunity Director/Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator  
Connecticut State Department of Education  
25 Industrial Park Road  
Middletown, CT 06457  
860-807-2071  
[levy.gillespie@ct.gov](mailto:levy.gillespie@ct.gov)

