



STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

October 6, 2016

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

[CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov](mailto:CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov)

860-713-6860



**Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Webinars**

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

[Smarter Balanced Updates](#)

[Special Populations Updates](#)

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

[2016-17 Important Dates](#)

[Register for E-mail Updates](#)

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 Assessments. 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](#) from the Bureau of Student Assessment for more information.

**Connecticut SAT School Day Updates**



**Webinars Regarding Accommodations for Special Populations on the Connecticut SAT School Day**

Two webinars have been scheduled to provide districts and schools administering the Connecticut SAT School Day in April 2017 with information on how to apply for accommodations for students with IEPs, 504 Plans and English Learners. The webinars are intended for SSD coordinators, guidance counselors, Test Center Supervisors and principals. Please plan to have at least one person from each school administering the Connecticut SAT School Day attend one of the webinars. The content from the webinars will be posted to the [Connecticut SAT School Day Web page](#) shortly after.

Register for [Wednesday, October 12, 2016, from 2:30-4:00 p.m.](#)

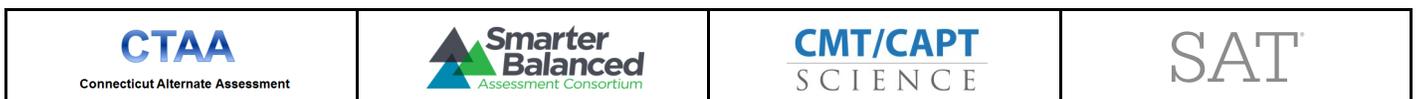
Register for [Friday, October 21, 2016, from 2:30-4:00 p.m.](#)

**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 Connecticut State Department of Education (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. Please contact [Michelle Rosado](#) if you did not receive this e-mail.



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**Smarter Balanced Updates**

 **Smarter Balanced Webinars**

If you missed the two Smarter Balanced webinars that were presented last week, both have been recorded and are available.

The [Technology Requirements for Online Testing Webinar](#) was presented on September 28, 2016. It provided an overview of the technology requirements needed on all computers and devices used for online testing, information on secure browser installation, and voice packs for text-to-speech.

The [Test Information Distribution Engine \(TIDE\) Webinar](#) was presented on September 29, 2016. It provided an overview of how to navigate TIDE.

**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 e-mail any questions to [EDsight.SDE@ct.gov](mailto:EDsight.SDE@ct.gov).

**ORS Update**

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

 **TIDE Users Required to Create New Passwords**

The 2016-17 TIDE system has been improved with easier navigation and a friendlier user interface. In preparation for the TIDE release on October 6, 2016, all user passwords for those with TIDE accounts will be cleared and reset. All users must create a new password for securing the sensitive information in TIDE. When TIDE re-opens, **ALL** users with accounts in TIDE will need to complete the steps listed below to create a new password.

1. Access the [TIDE](#) login page.
2. On the [TIDE](#) login page, select the “Forgot Your Password?” link just below the login prompt.
3. Enter the school *e-mail address* you use for all the Connecticut Assessment systems.
4. An e-mail (from [AIRAST-DoNotReply@airast.org](mailto:AIRAST-DoNotReply@airast.org)) which contains a new, temporary password will be sent to the e-mail address associated with the account.
5. Return to the [TIDE](#) login page to enter the username and the temporary password.
6. Follow the on-screen prompts to create a new password.

Even though users are required to reset their password, all user accounts which had access to the assessment systems in 2015-16 will continue to have access this year. If a user should no longer have an account, the DA, District Coordinator (DC), or School Coordinator (SC) should follow the process in the [TIDE User Guide](#) to remove system access for that user. Please contact the Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Help Desk at 1-844-202-7583 or [cthelpdesk@air.org](mailto:cthelpdesk@air.org) with any questions.

## Special Population 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 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 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 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.

### 2016-17 Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Training and Required Alternate Assessment System 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. Dates and locations of the trainings are provided in the registration module provided in the letter. Many of our Connecticut teachers have met the requirements for the Alternate Assessment System Training. District Administrators have permission to access the trained-teacher list in the TIDE system. For those considering participation in the Live presentations, please be aware that if less than 10 individuals register for the session, adjustments or cancellations may occur. Direct any questions to [Joe Amenta](#) or [Janet Stuck](#).

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**CSDE Comprehensive Assessment Resources**

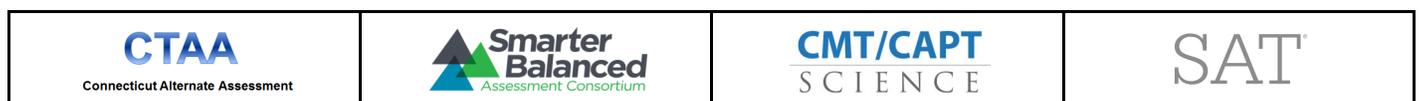
Connecticut Assessments	Results and Press Release	Resources
The 2016 CMT Science (Grades 5 and 8), the CAPT Science (Grade 10), and the Skills Checklist Science (Grades 5, 8, and 10)	Released on September 6, 2016, preliminary data are available on the <a href="#">Online Reporting System</a> (ORS). A <a href="#">press release</a> is available	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> . A <a href="#">press release</a> is available	<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 participation data are expected to be released in October. A <a href="#">press release</a> is available	<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	

**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 the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The [Data Suppression Guidelines](#) include the suppression rules that meet the 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 e-mail at [shondel.edwards@ct.gov](mailto:shondel.edwards@ct.gov).



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**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 Administrator 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)

