



STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

October 1, 2015

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)
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Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations 2015-2016 Presentation

This optional professional learning opportunity delivered by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) provides an overview of the accessibility options including designated supports and accommodations for students taking the Smarter Balanced assessments. The presentation focuses on students with disabilities, students with a Section 504 plan, and students identified as English learners, as well as general education students. Included in this presentation is a review of the new documentation such as the [2015-2016 Test Supports/Accommodations Form](#), [Text-to-Speech and Read Aloud Decision Guidelines 2015-2016 Form](#), and other changes impacting state testing this year. [Registration](#) is required to attend this presentation.

Designated Supports/Accommodation Data Collection

The [Text-to-Speech and Read Aloud Decision Guidelines 2015-2016 Form](#) must be completed for any student in Grades 3-8 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 or by faxing it to the CSDE at 860-713-7018. The [Text-to-Speech and Read Aloud Decision Guidelines 2015-2016](#) provides guiding questions to determine if a student qualifies to receive these accommodations.

Individual Student Reports for Outplaced Students

This year, the Smarter Balanced individual student reports that were delivered to districts did not include reports for outplaced students. Instead, two copies of the student reports for outplaced students were sent directly to the Approved Private Special Education Program (APSEP) where the student was tested. Administrators of these programs have been directed to distribute one copy to the student's parents or guardians. These reports can be viewed electronically in the [Online Reporting System](#) (ORS) by both the sending district and the APSEP.

Measurement Incorporated Web Portal

The [Measurement Incorporated Web Portal](#) will no longer be available after October 30, 2015. District Test Coordinators who use this portal to verify teachers who are trained to administer the Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) and the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist will no longer have access to this information. This information will be relocated into the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE); however, it may not be immediately available. Meanwhile, District Test Coordinators are encouraged to keep a record of teachers who have fulfilled this required training.



Test Supports and Accommodation Form

The [2015-2016 Test Supports/Accommodations Form](#) should be used to indicate the supports and accommodations a student will need to participate in the Smarter Balanced assessments and the CMT/CAPT Science. This revised form may not be reflected in a district's current online Individualized Education Program system. Districts are encouraged to confirm that their IEP vendors are using the most current form.

Connecticut State Department of Education Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal

The [Connecticut State Department of Education Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal](#) provides access to test administration resources. To automatically receive the *Student Assessment News* and/or other announcements, [register for e-mail updates](#) on the Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal.

[Register for email updates](#)

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Things to know about the 2015-2016 statewide assessments for special populations:

Accommodations/Designated Supports for Grades 3-8 Students Administered the Smarter Balanced assessments:

- A new [Test Supports/Accommodation Form](#) has been created.
- All designated supports/accommodations will be collected through TIDE.
- 2015-2016 Smarter Balanced Usability, Accessibility and Accommodations training is available [online](#) and [live](#).

Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA)

- CTAA registration using [CTAA and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science Eligibility & Learner Characteristics Inventory \(LCI\)](#) will be completed in TIDE.
- The CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science will be completed through the AIR Test Delivery System.
- Teachers administering these alternate assessments are required to take the 2015-16 CSDE CTAA & CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science training, either [online](#) or [live](#), **unless** they completed it last year.
- A list of teachers who took the CSDE CTAA & CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science training last year is available on the [Measurement Incorporated Web Portal](#) until October 30, 2015.

CMT/CAPT Science

- CMT/CAPT Science for all qualifying students in Grades 5, 8 and 10 will be available using the AIR Test Delivery System. MIST will no longer be used.
- All designated supports/accommodations will be collected through TIDE. There are no changes to accommodations available for CMT/CAPT Science this year.
- Many, but not all, of the universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations are available for the CMT/CAPT Science.

IEP and Other Forms

- Page 9: State And District Testing and Accommodations will change.

REMINDERS:

Access the [September 25 Student Assessment News](#) for information about the following:

- Smarter Balanced
 - TIDE and ORS Downtimes
 - Online Reporting System Training Webinar
 - Sample Parent and Guardian Letters
 - TIDE User Accounts and District Testing Contacts
 - Digital Library: Supporting Students with Disabilities Spotlight Webinar
- CMT/CAPT Science
 - Elimination of Retesting for CAPT Science
- Highlights from Connecticut's Approved Elementary and Secondary Education (ESEA) Flexibility Request
- Kindergarten Entrance Inventory



Reminders!

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2015-16 Important Dates

TIDE Down for Maintenance	September 26 – October 5, 2015
ORS Down for Maintenance	October 3 – October 18, 2015
Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments Testing Window	October 9, 2015 – June 10, 2016
National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) Results	<i>Coming Soon</i>
District Test Coordinator Workshops	<i>Tentative</i> January 19 – 22, 2016
CMT/CAPT Science Testing Window	March 1 – 29, 2016
Connecticut Alternate Assessment Testing Window	March 15 – May 27, 2016
Grade 11 Assessment	<i>Coming Soon</i>

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