



## STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

October 23, 2015

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)  
[CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov](mailto:CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov)

860-713-6860



### Test Information Distribution Engine Accounts

To maintain security within the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE), **all TIDE accounts** were reset for the 2015 – 16 school year. If users have not received new TIDE credentials from AIRAST-DoNotReply@airast.org, please follow the instructions for resetting passwords in the [TIDE brochure](#) or contact the [Help Desk](#) at 1-844-202-7583 or [cthelpdesk@air.org](mailto:cthelpdesk@air.org).

### Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments

The Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments for mathematics and English language arts/literacy (ELA) are available for administration to students in Grades 3 – 8 from October 9, 2015, through June 10, 2016. The interim assessments are one of the three components of the Smarter Balanced Assessment System—along with the end-of-year summative assessments in ELA and mathematics and a Digital Library of formative assessment tools and practices that supports classroom instruction. Information on navigating the Test Administration (TA) Interface can be found in the [TA User Guide](#) and on the [How to Activate a Test Session for the Interim Assessments](#) guide. Users will need TIDE credentials to log into the TA Interface. The Teacher Hand Scoring System (THSS) used to score interim assessment constructed-response test items will be available in early November. For more information on the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments, visit the [Connecticut State Department of Education \(CSDE\) Web site](#).

### Designated Supports and Accommodations

The Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments allow students to receive the same designated supports and accommodations that they will receive on the summative assessments. However, Braille booklets are not available for the interim assessments. As is the case with the Summative Assessments, only students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 plan can receive accommodations.

This year, designated supports and accommodations are made directly in the [TIDE](#). For students to have accessibility features available during the administration of the interim assessments, a student's test setting on TIDE must indicate any designated supports and/or accommodations. Therefore, the same care should be taken to ensure that all students, based on their documented needs, are registered in TIDE under Test Settings. The [TIDE User Guide](#) provides instructions for uploading and/or modifying student settings in TIDE.

### Test Information Distribution Engine and Public School Information System Sync

Student-level data in the TIDE is synced daily with the Public School Information System (PSIS) Registration Module. All changes to student enrollment and demographic information are made directly in the PSIS Registration Module. Changes made in PSIS may take up to 24 hours to appear in TIDE. As a reminder, **districts cannot add or remove students from TIDE**.

### Smarter Balanced Parent Guides

The Smarter Balanced Parent Guides developed by the CSDE were delivered to districts last week. Tailored by grade (for example, third grade test takers entering fourth grade, fourth grade test takers entering fifth grade, etc.), each brochure ties the previous year's standards with the upcoming year's standards and provides useful tools and strategies for parents to support their child's learning at home.

Although the shipment only included Parent Guides for parents/guardians of students currently in Grades 4 through 8, there are guides available in seven languages for parents/guardians of Grades 4 through 9 students on the CSDE Web site ([www.ct.gov/sde/ParentGuides](http://www.ct.gov/sde/ParentGuides)). There is no guide available for parents/guardians of Grade 12 students.

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## New Testing Implications for English Learners

In its recent application for renewal of ESEA Flexibility, the CSDE received additional flexibilities with respect to “recently arrived” English learners in tested grades. Please refer to the following documents to understand implications for testing English learners beginning with the 2015 – 16 school year.

- [Flexibility for English Learners: Information for District Test Coordinators and Administrators](#)
- [Flexibility for English Learners: Information for Teachers](#)



## DIGITAL LIBRARY

### Digital Library Spotlight Webinar and Forum Series

The Smarter Balanced Digital Library Spotlight Webinars, facilitated by national experts and innovative practitioners, highlight Digital Library resources related to timely and relevant topics. Authors of the resource offer a webinar to provide an overview of the resource and highlight strategies that can be used to support teaching and learning. See the [Illustrative Mathematics](#) and [Supporting Students with Disabilities](#) series fliers to register. Registration for the webinars is required. The webinars will be recorded for those who are unable to attend the live presentations.

### Supporting Students with Disabilities Spotlight Webinar

On September 30, Dr. Stephen Elliott presented a Spotlight webinar on a Digital Library resource: [Maximizing Access to Instruction and Testing for Students with Disabilities to Improve Achievement](#). He examined the concept of accessibility in classroom instruction and large-scale testing and shared research-driven strategies teachers can use to improve access for all students. Researchers have investigated a number of strategies and resources for improving access to instruction and tests. Dr. Elliott discussed the research behind these strategies and recommended a set of teacher actions to maximize access to instruction and testing so all students have opportunities to learn rigorous content and demonstrate what they have learned and can do. View the [recorded webinar](#) in the [Digital Library](#).

The next Smarter Balanced Digital Library Supporting Students with Disabilities Spotlight Webinar is scheduled for October 27, 2015. See the [Supporting Students with Disabilities](#) series flier to register.

### REMINDERS:

Access the [October 1 Student Assessment News](#) for information about the following:

- Smarter Balanced
  - Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations 2015-2016 Presentation
  - Designated Supports/Accommodation Data Collection
  - Individual Student Reports for Outplaced Students
- Measurement Incorporated Web Portal
- Test Supports and Accommodation Form
- Connecticut State Department of Education Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal
- Things to know about the 2015-2016 statewide assessments for special populations

Reminders!

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## 2015-16 Important Dates

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
Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments Testing Window	<i>To Be Determined</i>
Grade 11 Assessment	<i>To Be Determined</i>

[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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