



## STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

August 22, 2017

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

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

860-713-6860



### 2017 Science and CTAA Results

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

[2018 Summative Assessment Calendar](#)

[Interim Assessment Updates](#)

[Summative Assessments Updates](#)

[Connecticut School Day SAT Results on EdSight](#)

[PSAT and AP Updates](#)

[Connecticut's Plan for Every Student Succeeds Act Receives Federal Approval](#)

[Register for E-mail Updates](#)

The results from 2016-17 for the Science assessments (i.e., CMT, CAPT, and Skills Checklists) and the CT Alternate Assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics are available through the Online Reporting System (ORS) by all authorized users. As a reminder, Smarter Balanced Assessment results were already made available this past June through ORS.

Final aggregate results for all districts, schools and student groups that are suppressed appropriately to protect student confidentiality are expected to be available through EdSight in September.

District Administrators can contact the American Institutes for Research (AIR) Help Desk at 844-202-7583 for assistance with logging into the ORS. Your staff may also contact the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Performance Office staff at [CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov](mailto:CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov) with any questions.



### 2017-18 CSDE Usability, Accessibility and Accommodations Training and 2017-18 CSDE Alternate Assessment System Training

District Administrators were e-mailed a letter regarding the [2017-18 CSDE Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Training, and 2017-18 CSDE Alternate Assessment System Training](#).

Like last year, both trainings are available as an online or live in-person option.

**Note:** In the 2017-18 school year, the CSDE and AIR will be the only ones able to create the user role of Teacher Administering the Alternate (TEA). This user role allows individuals the permissions of a Teacher (TE) role, in addition to the necessary permissions for responsibilities related to the administration of the alternate assessments; submitting the Learner Characteristics Inventory (LCI), accessing required secure alternate assessment materials, and administering the alternate assessments. Only teachers with the user role of Teacher Administering the Alternate (TEA) will have permission to enter the LCI to register students to participate in the Alternate Assessments. Please contact [Joe Amenta](#) or [Janet Stuck](#) if you have any questions.

### 2017-18 Testing Designated Supports/Accommodations Form

The new [2017-18 Testing Designated Supports/Accommodations Form](#) is available online. You may use this form for students with an individualized education program (IEP), a Section 504 Plan and/or for English learners (ELs). As a reminder, there is no need to amend IEPs if you used last year's form and did not make any changes.

**CTAA**

Connecticut Alternate Assessment



**CMT/CAPT**  
SCIENCE

Connecticut SAT School Day



**STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS**  
**August 22, 2017**

**2018 Summative Assessment Calendar**

A [memorandum](#) from Commissioner Wentzell sent on July 24, 2017, details the 2018 summative assessment calendar. The chart below lists the state assessment windows for 2018.

2017–18 Summative Assessment Calendar			
Content Area(s)	Assessment	Grade(s)	Testing Window
English Language Proficiency: Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing	LAS Links	K–12	January 3–March 9, 2018
English Language Arts & Mathematics	Connecticut Smarter Balanced	3–8	March 26–May 25, 2018
	Connecticut SAT School Day	11	<i>Primary Test Date:</i> March 21, 2018  <i>Makeup Dates:</i> April 24 and 25, 2018
	Connecticut Alternate Assessment	3–8 and 11	March 26–May 25, 2018
Science	CMT	5 and 8	March 26–May 25, 2018
	CMT Skills Checklist	5 and 8	March 26–May 25, 2018
	Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessment Field Test	5, 8 and 11	March 26–May 25, 2018 (Grade 11)  April 30–May 25, 2018 (Grades 5 and 8)
	NGSS Alternate Assess- ment Field Test	5, 8 and 11	April 30–May 25, 2018 (Grades 5, 8, and 11)

 **Interim Assessment Updates**

The Interim Assessments will open with new items and blocks on September 26, 2017. To prepare for the administration of these Interim Assessments, the systems that support test administration have scheduled maintenance periods that require system downtime. Please see the following maintenance periods for these systems, below:

- TIDE will be down for maintenance from September 8<sup>th</sup> to September 19<sup>th</sup>.
- ORS will be down for maintenance from September 18<sup>th</sup> to September 26<sup>th</sup>.
- AIR Ways, AVA, and THSS will be down for maintenance from September 23<sup>rd</sup> to September 26<sup>th</sup>.



**STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS**  
**August 22, 2017**



## Summative Assessment Updates

### Secure Browser

The Windows and Mac OSX secure browsers for the 2017-18 school year is now available. This new version of the secure browser is **required** for all 2017-18 online test administrations. **Note:** The secure browser for all desktop operating systems is available for [download from the portal](#). Both iOS and Chrome secure browsers have been updated and are available in the App Store and in the Google Play Store, respectively.

### Voice Pack Installation Guide

The [Voice Pack Installation Guide](#) (for Windows) provides information for downloading the NeoSpeech Voice Pack from TIDE. This voice pack can be used on Windows machines for English text-to-speech and audio glossaries.

### System Requirements for Online Testing

The document, [System Requirements for Online Testing](#), outlines the basic technology requirements for administering an online assessment, including operating system requirements and supported web browsers. It was recently released for district planning purposes.

### Operating System Support Plan

The [Operating System Support Plan](#) document outlines the supported operating systems during the upcoming test administration and following years. This plan helps districts and schools manage operating system deployments based on the support timelines. This document was also recently released for district planning purposes.

### Individual Student Reports for Smarter Balanced Assessment and Science Assessment

Individual Student Reports (ISRs) will be sent to school districts by mid-September. This includes ISRs for Smarter Balanced and Science. The ISRs for Smarter Balanced and Science will be shipped separately.

### Test Specifications Manual for Online Testing

The [Test Specifications Manual for Online Testing](#) provides technology staff with the technical specifications for online testing, including information on Internet and network requirements, general hardware and software requirements, and the text-to-speech function. Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program online assessments should follow these configurations.

## 2017 Connecticut SAT School Day Results on EdSight

Results from the 2017 Connecticut SAT School Day have been posted to [EdSight](#). A [press release](#) is available. The FAQ [Connecticut SAT School Day Reporting](#) provides information regarding the reporting differences between EdSight and the College Board score reporting portal.



## STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS August 22, 2017



### PSAT and AP Updates

#### Advanced Placement Test Resources

The [College Board](#) announced a new system of resources and supports designed to achieve the Advanced Placement (AP) program's fundamental goal: empowering students and supporting teachers to achieve genuine success. The *AP Question Bank* and *Official Student Practice through Khan Academy* are new supports that will provide students with meaningful feedback that will increase their understanding of course content throughout the year.

In addition, AP students and teachers will be able to take advantage of the following resources at no additional cost, starting in the 2019-20 school year:

- **Unit Guides:** Planning guides that outline critical content and skills for major topic areas within a course, so teachers can focus and deepen instruction.
- **Online Unit Tests:** Formative AP questions that provide feedback to students on which areas they need focus.
- **Performance Dashboard:** Interactive reports that track and measure student performance on critical concepts and skills.

#### 2017 PSAT for Alliance Districts and 2018 AP for Low Income Students

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) will cover the cost for the fall 2017 administration of the PSAT for Grade 11 students who attend Alliance Districts. Additionally, the CSDE and College Board will cover the entire cost of 2018 AP exams for low-income students who attend public school in Connecticut.



### Connecticut's Plan for Every Student Succeeds Act Receives Federal Approval

On August 16, 2017, Commissioner of Education Dianna R. Wentzell announced the U.S. Department of Education (USED) confirmed that it accepted Connecticut's plan to meet the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the nation's school accountability law, which replaced the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Connecticut originally submitted its plan to USED in April. A four-member USED panel reviewed it and sent it back with clarifying questions and helpful feedback. The CSDE addressed the reviewers' comments, making clarifications and adjustments where necessary. The plan was resubmitted in July.

Connecticut's ESSA plan is based on strong stakeholder input over a period of several years. It incorporates a holistic Next Generation Accountability System that uses a broad set of 12 indicators to help tell the story of how well a school is preparing its students for success in college, careers and life. The new system moves beyond test scores and graduation rates and instead provides a more holistic, multifactor perspective of district and school performance and incorporates student growth over time.

The plan also includes different levels of interventions and supports for districts and schools that are based on the results from the accountability system. It is designed to help recruit, prepare, induct, evaluate, support, and advance a strong and diverse educator workforce. Connecticut's ESSA plan is posted on the CSDE's [ESSA webpage](#), along with resources used to develop the plan.

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 State of Connecticut Department of Education is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.*

CTAA

Connecticut Alternate Assessment

Smarter  
Balanced  
Assessment Consortium

CMT/CAPT  
SCIENCE

Connecticut SAT School Day

