



STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

February 14, 2017

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

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860-713-6860



Summative Assessment Updates

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

[Connecticut SAT School Day Updates](#)

[Interim Assessment Updates](#)

[Special Populations Updates](#)

[Advanced Placement Student Letters](#)

[Updates on English Learners](#)

[2016-17 Important Dates](#)

[Digital Library](#)

[Register for E-mail Updates](#)

**Smarter Balanced Recruitment for Educator Involvement**

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium is recruiting qualified Grades 3-8 mathematics and ELA educators to support assessment activities in 2017. A detailed [recruitment package](#) is available. Applications should be submitted [online](#). Applications are due to the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) by **Friday, February 24, 2017**. The CSDE will then make selections from this applicant pool and submit them to Smarter Balanced. Smarter Balanced will contact those educators that have been selected for participation beginning in early March. Please contact [Michelle Rosado](#) if you have any questions.

**Annual Administration of Statewide Summative Assessments for Spring 2017**

A January 30, 2017, [memo to Superintendents](#) details the requirements for administration of state assessments. Please contact [Abe Krisst](#) if you have any questions. In addition, local education agencies (LEAs) must annually administer an English language proficiency (ELP) assessment to their English learners (ELs) to measure their proficiency levels and progress in the four domains of language, including speaking, listening, reading, and writing per the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA). LAS Links is Connecticut’s mandated ELP assessment and the testing window for it is January 3-March 10, 2017. The *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* (ESEA) and Title III Regulations require that **all** English learners participate in the ELP assessment. If LEAs have questions regarding the particular testing needs of individual ELs, they should contact [Janet Stuck](#).

**Materials from the District Test Coordinator Workshops**

Materials from the District Test Coordinator Workshops held on January 18, 19, and 20, 2017, are available on the [Connecticut Comprehensive Portal](#). This training focused on the administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessments for English language arts/literacy and mathematics, Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT)/Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) Science, CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science, and the Connecticut Alternate Assessments (CTAA) for English language arts and mathematics. **Copies** of the manuals will be shipped to districts on February 10, 2017.

**STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS**  
**February 14, 2017**



**Connecticut SAT School Day Updates**

**Translated Test Directions**

Translated test directions for the Connecticut SAT School Day have been posted to our [Web site](#). The directions are available in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [Haitian Creole](#), [Polish](#), [Portuguese](#), [Russian](#), [Spanish](#) and [Vietnamese](#). Additionally, other languages can be supported with test day translators. As a reminder, EL students may receive directions translated in their native language for the Connecticut SAT School Day. Schools do **NOT** need to apply for this support in the College Board's Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) online system.

**Parent Letter and FAQ**

A Connecticut SAT School Day [parent letter](#) has been posted to our Web site. Schools may personalize this letter and use it to inform parents about the upcoming Connecticut SAT School Day. A *Frequently Asked Questions for Families and Students* document is also available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

**Accommodations Deadline**

All Connecticut SAT School Day accommodations for special education and 504 students must be entered into the [College Board's SSD online system](#) by Wednesday, February 15, 2017. A late request window will be available for those students who are newly enrolled, identified or classified as grade 11 students. The window to enter accommodations for EL students into the College Board's SSD online system is March 6-31, 2017. If you have any questions, please contact [Joe Amenta](#).

**Testing Grade 12 Students on the Connecticut SAT School Day**

A *small* number of Grade 12 students who skipped Grade 11 because of credit deficiency *and* did not take the Connecticut SAT School Day in Grade 11 will be required to take the Connecticut SAT School Day in April 2017. If your school has any such eligible Grade 12 students, please **FAX** a list of these students to Michelle Rosado at the CSDE at **860-326-0565** by **March 3, 2017**. The list of Grade 12 students must include the following information as it appears in PSIS registration:

- Student Name (First and Last)
- SASID
- Date of Birth
- School and District

Please contact [Michelle Rosado](#) if you have any questions about student eligibility.

**Grade 11 Students Taking the Connecticut Alternate Assessment**

As a reminder, please register any students who are taking the Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) in place of the Connecticut SAT School Day. Teachers Administering the Alternate (TEAs) should submit the [CTAA and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science Eligibility & Learner Characteristics Inventory \(LCI\)](#) in order to register the student to take the CTAA. The LCI is entered on [AIR Data Entry Interface](#) by the primary teacher who completed the form. This **MUST** be entered by March 17, 2017.



**STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS**  
**February 14, 2017**



**Connecticut SAT School Day Updates**

**Test Center Supervisor Workshop Materials**

Materials from the January 17 and 18, 2017, Test Center Supervisor Workshops are available on the CSDE [Web site](#). [Test manuals](#) for the Connecticut SAT School Day are also available. Test Implementation Kits, including manuals will be shipped to schools for arrival beginning on February 15, 2017.

**SAT Practice Tests and Khan Academy**

Schools can access full length SAT practice tests for students from the [College Board’s Web site](#). Practice tests are also available for students using [MP3](#) or [Screen Reader](#) or [Assistive Technology](#). Schools can also request large print or Braille SAT practice tests for students by contacting the [College Board’s Services for Students with Disabilities \(SSD\)](#). Additionally, students may access free online SAT practice through [Khan Academy](#). Khan is optional and is authorized by the student. Districts do NOT need to have an agreement as per Connecticut P.A. 16-189 with Khan, or any other vendor if the district is NOT disclosing student data to that vendor.

Students *may* also chose to link their College Board account to their Khan Academy account. Students who link their accounts will receive personalized practice. Please contact [Alan Bernstein](#) at the College Board if you would like to know the percentage of students in your school who have linked their accounts.

**Interim Assessment Updates**

**Interim Assessment Training—SPACES STILL AVAILABLE**

The *optional* Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments provide teachers with an additional resource to measure students’ mastery of specific content and skills aligned to the Connecticut Core Standards. The following training sessions are being provided to introduce educators to these interim assessments and explore creative ways to integrate them within curriculum and instruction. The trainings will be held at the Institute of Technology & Business Development (ITBD). The [Interim Assessment Training flyer](#) describes each session in detail. E-mail [Deirdre Ducharme](#) or [Cristi Alberino](#) for more information.

Overview of the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Blocks	Creative Ways to Use the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Blocks
<a href="#">Register for February 15, 2017 8:30-11:30 a.m.</a>	<a href="#">February 16 a.m. session is closed</a>
<a href="#">Register for February 15, 2017 12:30-3:30 p.m.</a>	<a href="#">Register for February 16, 2017 Grades 6-8: 12:30-3:30 p.m.</a>
<a href="#">Register for February 27, 2017 8:30-11:30 a.m.</a>	<a href="#">Register for March 10, 2017 Grades 6-8: 8:30-11:30 a.m.</a>
<a href="#">Register for February 27, 2017 12:30-3:30 p.m.</a>	<a href="#">Register for March 10, 2017 Grades 3-5: 12:30-3:30 p.m.</a>



**STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS**  
**February 14, 2017**



## Special Populations Updates

### TIDE Test Setting Update

On the morning of February 22, 2017, TIDE will be updated so that accommodations can only be entered for students with an IEP or Section 504 Plan. **English learners (EL) students** who require time extension for science **are** allowed to receive this accommodation. The update to the Test Information and Distribution Engine (TIDE) will not allow you to indicate this under test setting. Therefore, you will not be able to indicate time extension for science for your EL students in TIDE, but you can still provide this support during testing. Your test proctor will need to be made aware of EL students with time extension for science prior to testing.

### Opening of Data Entry Interface

The Data Entry Interface (DEI) application in TIDE is now open. Teachers Administering the Alternate (TEAs) should submit the [CTAA and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science Eligibility & Learner Characteristics Inventory \(LCI\)](#) prior to March 17, 2017, in the DEI to register their students for participation in either alternate assessment. A paper copy of the [LCI](#) may be downloaded.

### Required Text-to-Speech and Read Aloud Decision Guidelines 2016-17 Form Submission

All students who qualify to receive either text-to-speech or read aloud of the Smarter Balanced ELA reading passages are required to complete the [Text-to-Speech and Read Aloud Decision Guidelines 2016-17](#) form. This form can be completed online and submitted by clicking on the [SUBMIT FORM](#). In TIDE, there are students listed with this accommodation that have not had this form submitted. District test administrators are encourage to monitor the selection of this accommodation and whether the [Text-to-Speech and Read Aloud Decision Guidelines 2016-17](#) form has been submitted online.



## Advanced Placement

### AP Potential Student Letters

In the next few weeks, letters are being sent to over 20,000 high school students in Connecticut who have demonstrated Advanced Placement (AP) Potential based on the 2016 October PSAT. Superintendents received a [letter](#) on February 1, 2017, regarding this mailing.

For the past four years, as part of a student activation campaign, the CSDE has issued letters to students who demonstrated the potential to succeed on AP course work based on the results from the PSAT. The letters instruct these students to meet with their school counselors to discuss what course work is right for them. By taking challenging courses such as AP, dual enrollment, International Baccalaureate (IB), and/or honors courses, students attain important academic and financial benefits such as earning college credit, potentially skipping introductory courses and experiencing college-level work while in high school.

**CTAA**

Connecticut Alternate Assessment



**CMT/CAPT**  
SCIENCE

Connecticut SAT School Day



**STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS**  
**February 14, 2017**



**Updates on English Learners**

**Accommodations for the LAS Links**

In our continuing efforts to support ELs, the CSDE will collect accommodations information for dually identified students (i.e., English learners who have an individualized education plan (IEP) or 504 Plan). During this information gathering stage, collaboration between staff supporting English learners, students who are receiving special education services and students with Section 504 plans will be essential. Only LAS Links Category 3 accommodations will be recorded if eligible students will be using one or more of the following accommodations:

- Alternate Response Options (Assistive Technology or Alternate or Augmentative Communication);
- Braille;
- Large Print;
- Read Aloud for Reading Passages;
- Scribe;
- Sign Language;
- Speech-to-Text; and
- Text-to-Speech.

Please note that these accommodations parallel those identified and used on the Smarter Balanced and CMT/CAPT Science assessments. At this time, the CSDE does not require any additional documentation, or a Special Accommodations Petition for Read Aloud for passages or Scribe on the annual LAS Links assessment. Additional information is available in the [2017 CSDE LAS Links Accommodation Guidelines](#).

**Family Resources for English Learners**

Please share with families the [Family Resources for English Learners](#) available on the CSDE [English Learner](#) webpage. Many of these resources are available in multiple languages including English, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Polish and Portuguese. Resources include, but are not limited to:

- English Learner Brochure that provides information about identification, eligibility, programing and parent participation;
- English Learners and State Assessments Brochure that provides information about supports available for ELs on Connecticut state assessments;
- Web Resources for Parents and Families; and
- English Language Development Web sites.

**STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS**  
February 14, 2017

**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	Currently available
Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments Testing Window (ICA and IAB) and Interim Assessment Teacher Hand Scoring System	October 18, 2016-June 9, 2017
English Language Proficiency Testing	January 3-March 10, 2017
Deadline for Submission of CTAA and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science Eligibility & Learner Characteristics Inventory (LCI)	March 17, 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, 2017

**Digital Library**

**Digital Library Accounts**

New users to the Digital Library may register directly at the [Smarter Balanced Digital Library web site](#). You must use a professional (district/school) e-mail address when you register. Users with existing accounts can reset their password at this same site. Once accounts are reset or opened, each educator will receive a "Welcome to the Smarter Balanced Digital Library" e-mail (from [smarter-donotreply@smarterbalanced.org](mailto:smarter-donotreply@smarterbalanced.org)) with access information.

If a new user attempts to register and receives a message that the e-mail address does not match the authorized Digital Library e-mail domains, then they probably have an existing account and should attempt to reset their password. Teachers who have moved recently from other districts should try using their old e-mail address to log-in.

If an existing user attempts to reset their password and receives a message that a Digital Library account cannot be found, they should try to register.

Only District Test Coordinators should e-mail an Excel spreadsheet to [Cristi Alberino](#) if they need to modify existing accounts (i.e., first/last name and e-mail address changes) or to delete accounts for teachers no longer with that district. Please contact [Cristi Alberino](#) with any questions.

**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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