



## STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

February 3, 2017

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

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


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### Summative Assessment Updates

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

[Interim Assessment Updates](#)

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#### Understanding Smarter Balanced Performance Results

The CSDE created the following narrated PowerPoints to help districts and the public understand results from the Smarter Balanced assessment. They are helpful in understanding how to determine claim-level performance categories and how to determine Interim Assessment Block Performance categories. The two presentations are:

[Smarter Balanced Assessment: Determining the Claim-Level Performance Categories](#)

[Smarter Balanced Assessment: Determining the Interim Assessment Block Performance Categories](#)

#### 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, LEAs must annually administer an English language proficiency (ELP) assessment to their English Learners to measure their proficiency levels and progress in the four domains of language including speaking, listening, reading, and writing per ESSA. LAS Links is Connecticut's mandated ELP assessment and the testing window for it is January 3 through March 10, 2017. 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 EIs, 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, CMT/CAPT Science, CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science, and the Connecticut Alternate Assessments (CTAA) for English language arts and mathematics.

**CTAA**

Connecticut Alternate Assessment



**CMT/CAPT**  
SCIENCE

Connecticut SAT School Day



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**Interim Assessment Updates**

**Interim Assessment Training**

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="#">Register for February 16, 2017 Grades 3-5: 8:30-11:30 a.m.</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>    |

 **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.

**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](#). 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.

**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.



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**Special Populations Updates**

**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.

**Alternate Assessment System Training**

Any teacher administering an alternate assessment must complete and pass the CSDE required training that is provided prior to test administration. The [2016-17 CSDE Alternate Assessment System Training](#) continues to be available as an online course. This training qualifies participants to administer either alternate assessment for a three-year period, therefore, individuals who passed the course in 2014-15, 2015-16 or 2016-17 are eligible to administer the CTAA and the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science in 2017. District Administrators may access the list of Trained Teachers in TIDE.

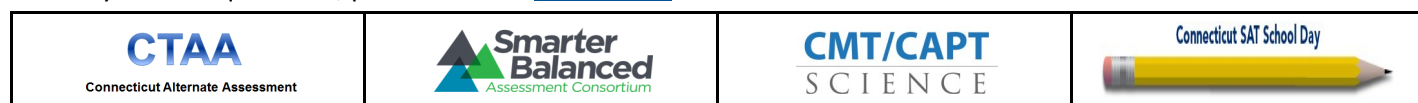
**Important Dates for Alternate Assessments**

| Alternate Assessment   | Description   | Date                                     |
|--|---|--|
| CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist  | Science<br>Grades 5, 8 and 10   | Upload Dates:<br>March 27-April 28, 2017 |
| Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA)  | English language arts<br>& mathematics<br>Grades 3-8 and 11   | Testing Window<br>March 27-May 26, 2017  |
| Deadline for Submission of CTAA and CMT/<br>CAPT Skills Checklist Science Eligibility &<br>Learner Characteristics Inventory (LCI) | Registers eligible students for<br>participation in Alternate As-<br>sessments  | <b>March 17, 2017</b>                    |
| Opening of Data Entry Interface (DEI)  | Application in TIDE used to<br>enter CTAA and CMT/CAPT<br>Skills Checklist Science Eligibil-<br>ity & Learner Characteristics<br>Inventory (LCI) and CMT/CAPT<br>Skills Checklist | December 13, 2016                        |

**Updates on English Learners**

**English Language Proficiency Testing**

All English Learners must assessed annually with an English language proficiency (ELP) assessment. The annual ELP testing window is from **January 3, through March 10, 2017**. This year, **LAS Links, Form D will be administered**. As in previous years, the Kindergarten-Grade 2 assessments will be administered using paper and pencil. Districts have the option to administer the assessment to Grades 3-12 using an online platform or a paper and pencil assessment. Decisions about assessing students using the online versus paper and pencil administration may be made at the **student level**. If you have questions, please contact [Janet Stuck](#).



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**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.

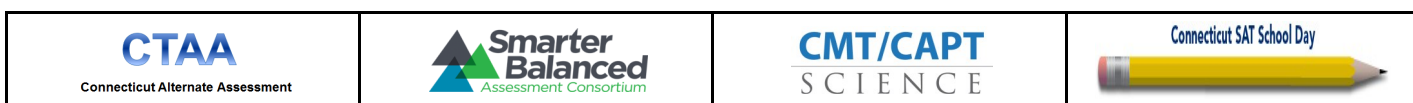
Please note that these accommodations parallel those identified and used on the Smarter Balanced and CMT/CAPT Science assessments. At this time, the CSDE does not require any additional documentation, or a Special Accommodations Petition for Read Aloud for passages or Scribe on the annual LAS Links assessment.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

**English Mastery Standard**

English learners (ELs) who achieve the criteria specified below are considered to have attained English mastery and, therefore, districts must change their EL status to “N” in the October 2017 Collection of the Public School Information System (PSIS). For two years beginning in school year 2017-18, these students are considered “monitored former ELs” and may receive English language supports that are deemed appropriate by the district.

| Language Assessment Scales (LAS) Links Required Scores To Exit English Language Services |  |
|--|--|
| GRADES   | LAS Links Scores   |
| Kindergarten-Grade 12  | Overall Level 4 or 5<br>and<br>Reading Score 4 or higher<br>and<br>Writing Score 4 or higher |

Deaf and non-verbal ELs can achieve mastery by receiving a score of 4 or higher on the three LAS Links subtests on which they are assessed. If an EL is Deaf or non-verbal and will not participate in an applicable subtest in the English Language Proficiency (ELP) assessment, you **must** contact Janet Stuck by e-mail at [janet.stuck@ct.gov](mailto:janet.stuck@ct.gov) or 860-713-6837 to discuss the student’s individual testing needs.



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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 | 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  |
| 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<br>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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| <br>Connecticut Alternate Assessment |  |  |  |
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