



## STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

June 15, 2017

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

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

860-713-6860



### Summative Assessment Updates

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

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[Participation in Alternative Assessments](#)

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[English Learner Updates](#)

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### Smarter Balanced Assessment Results

Please see this [e-mail](#) that was sent the morning of June 15, 2017, from Chief Performance Officer Ajit Gopalakrishnan regarding the release of Smarter Balanced Results.

### Verifying Contact Information in TIDE

In preparation for the mailing of the 2017 summative assessment score reports, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Performance Office is requesting that all District Test Coordinators (DA's in TIDE) verify and/or update their contact information in the TIDE system before **July 15, 2017**. To verify, please follow the steps below:

Log into TIDE and click on the "District Shipping Contact Information" at the bottom of the "Preparing for Testing" section.

After clicking on this, a window will open with shipping contact information. Confirm and/or update this information.

Once this has been done, click "save" at the bottom of the screen.



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**2017 Administration Appreciation and Feedback**

Thank you for your efforts regarding the 2017 state assessments. The Connecticut State Department of Education appreciates the work done by all involved in the administration of the Connecticut SAT School Day, Smarter Balanced Assessment, CMT/CAPT Science and the Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA).

We welcome feedback from districts and schools about the 2017 administration. Two surveys are available to complete. A [survey](#) about the administration of the **Connecticut SAT School Day** is available, and a [survey](#) about the **Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments and CTAA** is also available. Each survey will take approximately 5 minutes to complete.



**Participation in Alternate Assessments**

A [letter](#) from Ajit Gopalakrishnan was sent to Superintendents on June 1, 2017, regarding participation in alternate assessments.

The letter describes that the new federal law, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), creates a **state-level cap** for the total number of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who are assessed with an alternate assessment to **one percent** of the total number of students in the state who are assessed in the subject. The law and accompanying regulations also expect states to monitor district use of the alternate assessments and provide guidelines for individualized education program (IEP) teams to determine when a student should be assessed using the alternate assessment.

In the 2015-16 school year, over 4,000 students with disabilities statewide (1.5 percent of all students assessed) participated in Connecticut's Alternate Assessments. The [Count of Alternate Assessments By District](#) is provided. The data are grouped both by the reporting district (i.e., the district that reported the student to the CSDE) and by the special education Nexus district.



**NGSS Science Pilot Test**

Thanks to the efforts of school districts throughout the state, the recently completed pilot test of assessment items aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) was very successful. Over 24,000 students in Grades 5, 8 and 11 participated across 250 schools. In addition, over 4,200 students and 168 district staff responded to the feedback surveys, which will help to improve the assessments scheduled to be in place for spring 2019. The results from the pilot test will be analyzed over the next few months and shared with our science assessment committee as they work to develop the innovative and challenging NGSS tests. Thank you to all the students and district staff for their cooperation in this important effort.

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



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English Learners

**English Language Proficiency Test Results**

On June 7, 2017, English Learner (EL) Coordinators were provided secure access to their district’s student results for the annual English Language proficiency assessment, the LAS Links. In accordance with Federal mandates and Connecticut state regulations, this assessment is required for any student in Grades K-12 identified as an English Learner to determine if the criteria to exit programs of English language instruction have been achieved. These LAS Links results are provided by our assessment vendor, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), through the assessment vendor’s secure Online Reporting System, allowing districts access to LAS Links Proficiency Levels 1-5 (Beginning, Early intermediate, Intermediate, Proficient, and Above Proficient) in the skill areas of Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing for each student.

To meet the exit criteria, an EL must attain Level 4 or 5 grade-specific scores on the Reading and Writing subtests, as well as Overall. Additional information may be obtained on the [English Learner web page](#).

**New Policy for English Learners**

A [memorandum](#) from the Commissioner dated June 9, 2017, outlines new policy for English Learner students in Connecticut Public Schools. New policies for EL students in the areas of identification, accountability and assessment are detailed in the memo.

**Ordering Process for Initial English Learner Identification Materials**

A letter regarding the [Ordering Process for English Learner Identification Materials](#) was provided to English Learner Coordinators and Title III contacts on June 12, 2017. Based upon Connecticut’s new English Learner Identification policy and protocol, Connecticut will be using the LAS Links Placement Test for Identification purposes. Districts will use the [Connecticut English Learner Identification Process Materials Order Form 2017-18](#) to order the appropriate materials for identification purposes on or before June 30, 2017, to ensure they are received in the district on or before August 18, 2017.

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.

CTAA

Connecticut Alternate Assessment



CMT/CAPT  
SCIENCE

Connecticut SAT School Day

