



STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

January 12, 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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District Test Coordinator Workshops

District Test Coordinator Workshops are scheduled for January 18, 19, and 20, 2017, at the Institute of Technology and Business Development (ITBD) in New Britain. There will be four sessions to choose from and each session will repeat the same content. **Training will be provided for 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.** District Administrators will be provided with information to support training School Coordinators and Test Administrators. Registration is limited to **two** attendees per district. Information about registration is included on the [AIR Web site](#).

Science Assessment Transition Timeline

A December 13, 2016, [memo to Superintendents](#) details the plans for the Science Assessment Transition Timeline. Please contact [Jeff Greig](#) if you have any questions.

Digital Library

The Smarter Balanced Digital Library provides online, Connecticut Core Standards-aligned resources developed by educators to support student learning. Information concerning the various features of the Digital Library can be found on our [Web site](#).

You must register in order to access the Smarter Balanced Digital Library. Now there is a new self-registration feature for the Digital Library! Just go to the [Smarter Balanced Library Web site](#) enter your name and school/professional e-mail address. An e-mail with instructions on how to login will be sent to the e-mail address noted. Please e-mail [Cristi Alberino](#) with any questions.



Interim Assessment Updates

Interim Assessment Webinars

The last webinar in the Interim Assessment Webinar series is scheduled for **January 19, 2017, from 3:45-4:45 p.m.** A description of this webinar and how to register is included in the [Interim Assessment Webinar flyer](#). Information about the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment is available on our [Web site](#). E-mail [Deirdre Ducharme](#) or [Cristi Alberino](#) for more information.



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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 with 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**

Register for [February 15, 2017 8:30-11:30 a.m.](#)

Register for [February 15, 2017 12:30-3:30 p.m.](#)

Register for [February 27, 2017 8:30-11:30 a.m.](#)

Register for [February 27, 2017 12:30-3:30 p.m.](#)

**Creative Ways to Use the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Blocks**

Register for [February 16, 2017 Grades 3-5: 8:30-11:30 a.m.](#)

Register for [February 16, 2017 Grades 6-8: 12:30-3:30 p.m.](#)

Register for [March 10, 2017 Grades 6-8: 8:30-11:30 a.m.](#)

Register for [March 10, 2017 Grades 3-5: 12:30-3:30 p.m.](#)



**Connecticut SAT School Day Updates**

**SAT Practice Tests**

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](#).

**CTAA**

Connecticut Alternate Assessment



**CMT/CAPT**  
SCIENCE

Connecticut SAT School Day



## 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.

### New Resources Available for Alternate Assessments

The [2017 Connecticut Alternate Assessment \(CTAA\) Test Administration Manual](#) is now available on the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal. This manual provides information about policies and procedures for TEAs and School and District Coordinators to prepare for the administration of the 2017 Connecticut Alternate Assessment for English language arts and mathematics.

The [CTAA Assessing Students who are Blind, Deaf or Deaf-Blind; Additional Guidance for Test Administration Manual](#) is now available on the CSDE Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal. This guidance document provides additional guidance for administering the CTAA and is intended to be used in conjunction with the required, secure CTAA Directions for Test Administration (DTA). The document includes tasks to complete before, during, and after the assessment, strategies to enhance access to the CTAA, and appendices with information for accessing the Open-Response (OR) Foundational Reading items in Grades 3 and 4 and additional resources for TEAs working with students who are Blind, Deaf, or Deaf-Blind.

The [Student Response Check for Paper Administration](#) is now available on the CSDE Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal. The online form of the CTAA Student Response Check (SRC) is available in the Test Delivery System. The SRC is a task that needs to be completed prior to testing by the TEA to evaluate a student's response capabilities. This content-neutral task provides an opportunity to observe and confirm the student's mode of response.

The [Connecticut Accessing Participation Reports: CTAA and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science Eligibility & Learner Characteristics Inventory \(LCI\) Brochure](#) is now available on the CSDE Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal. This document provides instructions for how to extract participation reports for the CTAA and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science Eligibility & LCI in the Test Information and Distribution Engine (TIDE). Submission of the LCI is required for eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities prior to administering the following alternate assessments: CTAA for English language arts and mathematics, the CMT Skills Checklist Science, and the CAPT Skills Checklist Science. Reviewing these participation reports can ensure teachers and administrators have registered students for either alternate assessment by tracking the LCI and Skills Checklist Science submissions.

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**Special Populations Updates**

The [How to Access the Data Entry interface \(DEI\) Brochure](#) is now available on the CSDE Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal. The document provides instructions describing how to access the DEI in order to submit the CTAA and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science Eligibility & LCI and the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science. The submission of the LCI is required prior to administering either alternate assessment (CTAA or CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science).

**Alternate Assessment System Training**

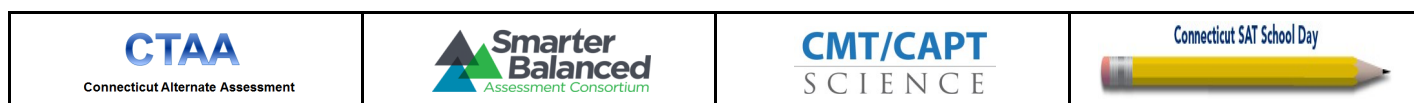
Any teacher administering an alternate assessment must complete and pass the CSDE required training that is provided prior to test administration. The [2016-17 CSDE Alternate Assessment System Training](#) continues to be available as an online course. This training qualifies participants to administer 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 Grades 5, 8 and 10	Upload Dates: March 27-April 28, 2017
Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA)	English language arts & mathematics Grades 3-8 and 11	Testing Window March 27-May 26, 2017
Deadline for Submission of CTAA and CMT/ CAPT Skills Checklist Science Eligibility & Learner Characteristics Inventory (LCI)	Registers eligible students for participation in Alternate As- sessments	<b>March 17, 2017</b>
Opening of Data Entry Interface (DEI)	Application in TIDE used to enter CTAA and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science Eligibil- ity & Learner Characteristics Inventory (LCI) and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist	December 13, 2016

**New Designated Support**

[Simplified test directions](#) is a designated support allowable across all grades on Smarter Balanced assessments. Designated supports can be provided to any student, as long as an informed educator or group of educators determines it is appropriate. Students with difficulties in auditory processing, short-term memory, attention, or decoding may benefit from having test directions simplified for them. This designated support may require testing in a separate setting to avoid distracting other test takers.



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**Updates on English Learners**

**English Language Proficiency Testing**

The Every Student Succeeds Act (Sec. 1111.i) requires that all English Learners be 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 e-mail [Janet Stuck](mailto:Janet.Stuck).

If you have questions regarding a particular EL's ability to participate in the ELP assessment, you **must** contact Janet Stuck in the Bureau of Student Assessment at [janet.stuck@ct.gov](mailto:janet.stuck@ct.gov) or 860-713-6837 to discuss the student's individual testing needs.

**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](#).

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**Updates on English Learners**

**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 and Reading Score 4 or higher and 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.

**Advanced Placement (AP) Exam Fees for Low Income Students**

Since 2012, the CSDE has applied and received a federal grant from the USDE to cover the partial cost of AP exam fees for low income students in Connecticut. For the past several years, the CSDE has also used state funds to cover all remaining AP exam fees for low income students. The CSDE has worked with the College Board to pay directly for these exams on behalf of schools. The existing grant program from the USDE ended in 2016 and will be replaced by another grant, Title IV, Part A. The plans for the distribution and allocation of this new grant have not been determined. However, the CSDE has pledged to cover the costs for AP exams for low income students for the May 2017 administration. Information will be shared soon regarding the plans for 2018 and beyond. Please contact [Michelle Rosado](#) if you have any questions.

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**Understanding the Smarter Balanced Growth Model Results Webinar**

A webinar titled “Understanding the Smarter Balanced Growth Model Results” will be held on **Friday, January 27, 2017**, from **1:00-2:00 p.m.** Please [register](#) in advance for the webinar.

During this webinar, Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Chief Performance Officer, will provide a brief overview of Connecticut's Smarter Balanced growth model, review the results on [EdSight](#), discuss inclusion of growth in the Next Generation Accountability System, and answer any questions from the participants.

Prior to the session, participants are strongly encouraged to:

- listen to the [Growth Model Narrated PowerPoint Presentation](#); and
- review the [Technical Report](#).

**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 Sys-	October 18, 2016-June 9, 2017
English Language Proficiency Testing	January 3-March 10, 2017
District Administrator/Test Center Supervisor Workshops	January 17-20, 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

**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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 Connecticut Alternate Assessment			
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