



**For Immediate Release:**

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**NEWTOWN GRANTED REQUEST FOR WAIVING CONNECTICUT MASTERY TESTS  
State and Federal Assessment Requirements Waived for Students Grades 3-8**

HARTFORD, CT—The State Board of Education today unanimously approved a resolution to waive Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) assessment requirements for Newtown students in grades 3 through 8, contingent on the passage of legislation by the Connecticut General Assembly to waive sections of state statutes that mandate these assessments. The General Assembly subsequently passed this legislation today.

“Under the extraordinary circumstances of this terrible tragedy, the district identified this waiver as a specific way we could provide relief during the academic year,” said Commissioner of Education Stefan Pryor. “We are grateful for the assistance and cooperation of all parties involved for fulfilling this request from the Newtown community.”

Acting on [the request of the Newtown public school district](#) and local Board of Education, the Department of Education began working with Governor Malloy’s office and General Assembly leadership to draft the necessary legislation in order to fulfill the district’s request. Today, both chambers of the General Assembly unanimously passed this legislation, Bill No. 6599, An Act Establishing The Sandy Hook Workers Assistance Program And Fund, Clarifying The Calculation Of Survivor Benefits, And Authorizing A Waiver Of The State-wide Master Examination Requirement for Certain Newtown Students.

Additionally, [Commissioner of Education Stefan Pryor formally requested a federal waiver](#) for the Newtown school district from provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requiring annual assessments and reporting of data. On Tuesday, March 5, the [U.S. Department of Education granted a one-year waiver](#) of the federal requirements related to the annual student assessment for Newtown students grades 3 through 8.

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