CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

CSDE

Performance Office

STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

March 9, 2017

NEW **Summative Assessment Updates**

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

NEW **Smarter Balanced Updates**

NEW **Annual TIDE/PSIS Data Sync for TIDE-Related Assessments**

NEW **Connecticut SAT School Day**

NEW **Special Populations Updates**

Updates on English Learners

NEW **Next Generation Accountability Results Released**

2016-17 Important Dates

Register for E-mail Updates

Correction to the CMT/CAPT Science Test Administration Manual

American Institutes for Research (AIR) has posted an ERRATA on the portal. This corrects two errors in the teacher instructions that occurs on page 21 and 22 of the 2016-2017 *CMT/CAPT Science: Test Administration Manual for Online Testing*. These errors have to do with instructions to the students. The first error incorrectly requires students to answer items in order before being allowed to continue. The science test sessions have no such restriction, so this direction should not be read to students. The second error instructs students to **PAUSE** upon completion of the science test session. Because the science test is a timed test, students need to **SUBMIT** their test when the session is over, rather than **PAUSE** their test. Tests that are **PAUSED** will be **SUBMITTED** automatically at the end of the testing day. These errors have been corrected in the online version of the manual. Please contact Jeff Greig if you have any questions.

Google Chrome Browser Information

AIR currently supports the Google Chrome Web Browser version 48 and above. AIR will strive to support each version of Google Chrome as it is released. This means that, theoretically, students may take the AIR-related tests using the latest version of Google Chrome. However, to be on the safe side, it is probably best for tested students to use a version of Chrome that has been completely confirmed and validated, rather than a later version. The last confirmed and validated version of Chrome is version 56, so any version between 48 and 56 should not result in any technical malfunctions. This applies to the following statewide tests:

- CMT/CAPT Science;
- Smarter Balanced;
- CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist (Science) and
- the CTAA.

Customizable Parent Letters

The following parent letters have been made available as a resource for districts in preparation for spring testing.

| SAT Draft Parent Letter | Smarter Balanced and CMT/CAPT Science Letter |
| (Spanish Version) | (Spanish Version) |

These draft samples are in word so they can be customized to meet local needs.

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| NEW | **Smarter Balanced Updates** |

Updated Smarter Balanced Practice and Training Tests

The Updated Smarter Balanced Mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA) practice and training tests are now available. Students and Test Administrators can access these tests via the [practice and training test icon](#).

| NEW | **Annual TIDE/PSIS Data Sync for TIDE–Related Assessments** |

It is important for District Administrators and Public School Information System (PSIS) Coordinators to understand the ongoing relationship between the PSIS and the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE). Accurate reporting of individual student status at the time of testing in the PSIS Registration Module is the only way to ensure accurate reporting of the annual statewide test results.

District Administrators will need to work with their District PSIS Coordinators to ensure that accurate student information is being reported in the PSIS Registration Module, and subsequently in TIDE. The PSIS Coordinators should make all changes to student enrollment and demographic information directly in the PSIS Registration Module. During the summative test window (March 27—May 26) for CMT/CAPT Science, Smarter Balanced, and their related alternate assessments, changes will appear in TIDE the day after those changes are made in the PSIS.

PSIS Registration Module

Any changes to a student's status at the time of testing should be made directly in the PSIS Registration Module. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) requires the following data from districts on five important data fields. These data fields are:
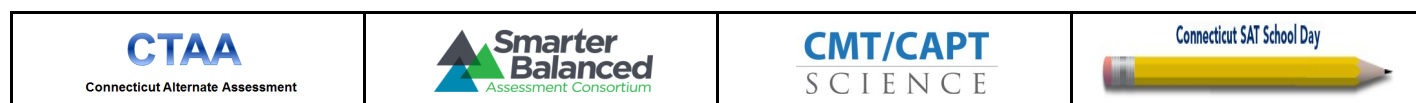
- English Learner (EL) Status;
- Special Education (SPED) Status;
- Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) Status;
- Recently Arrived EL Status; and
- Section 504 Status.

These values must show the student's status at the time of testing. District PSIS Coordinators may now enter up-to-date data for these fields in the PSIS Registration Module. These values will be reflected in TIDE.

The PSIS information reflected in TIDE is for all of the following assessments.

- Smarter Balanced;
- CTAA;
- CMT/CAPT Science; and
- CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science.

Student demographic values will be saved and the fields locked in PSIS **on May 26, 2017.** Students who enroll from outside the Connecticut public schools after May 22, 2017, will not be required to take the Smarter Balanced assessments. These students will not be uploaded into TIDE.

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NEW Annual TIDE/PSIS Data Sync for TIDE–Related Assessments (continued)

PSIS and the Connecticut SAT School Day

Even though the Connecticut SAT School Day is not related to TIDE, PSIS demographic values should also be updated, as necessary to indicate a student's status at the time of testing for the Connecticut SAT School Day. Accurate reporting for these students in PSIS will help ensure accurate statewide test reporting for the Connecticut SAT School Day. Additionally, accuracy is very important since students will be registered for the April 2017 Connecticut SAT School Day based on the PSIS database.

For any student who is participating in the April 5, 2017, Connecticut SAT School Day administration, the PSIS **Registration Module** should indicate their correct demographic status **at the time of that testing**. Likewise, for students who are participating instead in the makeup dates for the Connecticut SAT School Day (April 25 or 26, 2017), accurate status **at the time of that test** should be reflected in the PSIS **Registration Module**.

Please note: the grade recorded in PSIS should always reflect the grade in which the student is being educated.

NEW Connecticut SAT School Day Updates

Connecticut SAT School Day Supervisors Online Training

The Connecticut SAT School Day training is available as a recorded webinar on the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) SAT Web site. This training is required for all new Test Center Supervisors, and recommended for returning supervisors as a refresher. A version for Associate Supervisors is also available that you can use to train your test day staff. Please contact Michelle Rosado if you have any questions.

Connecticut SAT School Day Test Materials

Test materials for the April 5, 2017, administration of the Connecticut SAT School Day will be shipped to schools the week of March 27, 2017. All schools will receive test materials based on the number of students registered in PSIS, as well as materials for students who are approved for special materials through the College Board's Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) system. Schools should receive their materials by March 30, 2017. If you do not receive your materials by March 30, 2017, or if you need additional materials, please call the College Board immediately at 855-373-6387.

Fee Waivers

Eligible students who take the Connecticut SAT School Day can take advantage of the benefits of the College Board's fee waiver program. These benefits are described in the College Board publication Putting Fee Waivers to Work. Schools should have received fee waivers for the upcoming administration and should distribute them to eligible students. Please contact the College Board School Day Support at 855-373-6387 if you need additional fee waivers.

Approved List of Bilingual Dictionary Word-to-Word Translation

The list of approved College Board-Approved Word-to-Word Glossaries for the Connecticut SAT School Day is posted to this Web site. Unlike last year, schools do NOT need to apply for accommodations for EL students who use Bilingual Dictionary Word-to-Word Translation.

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NEW **Connecticut SAT School Day Updates (continued)**

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, English learner (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 SSD online system.

Transfer Scenarios and Testing on the Connecticut SAT School Day

The *Connecticut SAT School Day Guidance for Testing Students Who Transfer into Schools* provides guidance about testing students who enroll in your school between January 27 and April 14, 2017. Please review this document to ensure that you are accounting for all Grade 11 students who must be tested. Contact Michelle Rosado if you have any questions.

State Allowed Accommodations

Some students taking the SAT require the accommodations of sign language for test content or responses. Additionally, some EL students require extended time. The window to enter these accommodations into the College Board's SSD online system is open now, but it closes on March 31, 2017. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Amenta.

NEW **Special Populations Updates**

Adding Designated Supports and Accommodations in TIDE

Many districts use an individualized education program (IEP) vendor to batch upload designated supports and accommodations into TIDE. There are a few things to consider before doing this batch upload:

- All out-placed students should be removed from a district's file. Outplacement facilities are responsible for entering these students.
- Requests for accommodations are only available for students with an IEP or Section 504 plan. If this is not indicated in your district's PSIS (and therefore, not indicated in TIDE), any accommodations entered will be rejected. Below is an image in TIDE of the status in the demographics area that should be used to confirm status from PSIS.

IDEA Indicator: ○ BLANK ○ Yes

LEP Status: ○ BLANK ○ Yes

*Section 504: [No ▼]

IDEA Indicator refers to students with an IEP.
LEP Status refers to students that are EL.
Section 504 is indicated with YES.

Please also consider that EL students are allowed extended time for Science, but districts cannot indicate this in TIDE.

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NEW	**Special Populations Updates (continued)**

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

Some students qualify to receive either text-to-speech or read aloud of the Smarter Balanced English language arts (ELA) reading passages. The Text-to-Speech and Read Aloud Decision Guidelines 2016-2017 form must be completed for these students. 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 Administrators are encouraged to monitor the selection of this accommodation, and whether the Text-to-Speech and Read Aloud Decision Guidelines 2016-2017 form has been submitted online.

CTAA User Guide

The Connecticut Alternate Assessment System User Guide is now available on the CSDE Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal. The guide is designed to help users navigate the Test Delivery System for the Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA), including the Student Interface and the Test Administration Interface. This guide includes directions for accessing the CTAA practice tests, starting a test session, and how teachers administering the alternate assessment (TEAs) can log students into the system for online testing.

Deadline for Required Training to Administer Connecticut's Alternate Assessments

On August 18, 2016, District Administrators (DAs) were e-mailed a letter regarding the required 2016-2017 CSDE Alternate Assessment System Training. Teachers administering the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science and/or the CTAA must complete the CSDE Alternate Assessment System Training. This training is available online. All four modules and associated quizzes must be completed and passed by **March 17, 2017**, in order to administer either Alternate assessment in the 2016-17 school year.

Students in PSIS Who Attend Out-of-State Facilities or In-State Non-Approved Facilities
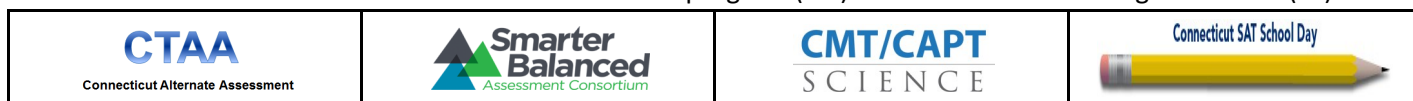
As shared at the January Test Coordinator workshops, Connecticut public school districts are responsible for testing students registered in the Public School Information System (PSIS) who are enrolled in out-of-state facilities or in-state non-approved facilities. Information on how to administer the CMT/CAPT Science (including Skills Checklist), Smarter Balanced assessment and the CTAA may be accessed in Students in PSIS Who Attend Out-of-State Facilities or In-State Non-Approved Facilities. Districts with Grade 11 students who attend out-of-state facilities or in-state non-approved facilities have already been notified by the CSDE about testing those students.

CTAA and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science Eligibility & LCI Deadline

The CTAA and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science Eligibility & Learner Characteristics Inventory (LCI) must be submitted by the teacher administering the alternate assessment (TEA), into the Data Entry Interface (DEI) by **March 17, 2017**. This is required for any student who will participate in the alternate assessments, which includes the CTAA for English language arts and mathematics, and the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist (Science). The Alternate Assessment Indicator in the demographic section for these students in TIDE will be selected by AIR following March 17, 2017.

TIDE Test Setting Update

On February 22, 2017, the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) was updated so that accommodations can only be entered for students with an individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan. English learner (EL) stu-

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NEW Special Populations Updates (continued)

dents who require *time extension* for science **are** allowed to receive this accommodation. The updated 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.

Special Documented Accommodations Requests due by March 17, 2017

In exceptional circumstances, there may be a student whose disabilities are such that the allowable accommodations listed in the *Assessment Guidelines* would be insufficient to provide access to the Smarter Balanced Assessments, the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) Science, the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) Science, the Connecticut SAT School day, or either alternate assessment, the CTAA or CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science. In these cases, upon request, the District Administrator will be provided with information regarding the *PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF SPECIAL DOCUMENTED ACCOMMODATIONS.* These petitions **MUST** be submitted to the CSDE in writing, **prior** to the appropriate state testing window. These petitions must also include all of the necessary documentation to support any request for the use of an accommodation other than those allowed as indicated in the *Assessment Guidelines* current edition. **These special accommodation requests must be initiated by the District Administrator by calling either Janet Stuck (860-713-6837) or Joe Amenta (860-713-6855) by March 17, 2017.**

CTAA Secure Directions for Test Administration

The Connecticut Alternate Assessment secure Directions for Test Administration (DTA) are available on the CSDE Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal for individuals with the user role of Teacher Administering the Alternate (TEA) or District Administrator (DA). These DTAs are **required** for administration of all CTAA English language arts and math grade specific tests. The brochure How to Access and Download the Secure Connecticut Alternate Assessment Directions for Test Administration is available for your reference to help with downloading these documents.

Updates on English Learners

English Language Proficiency (ELP) Assessment Window Closes March 10, 2017

All English learners must participate in the annual English language proficiency (ELP) assessment. **The annual ELP testing window closes on Friday, March 10, 2017**. The last district pick-up day for paper tests is March 17, 2017. The LAS Links, Form D is being administered this year to **all** identified English learners. Only those students who are tested during the testing window will be reported. Unlike previous years, the CSDE will not collect student test information of those students who completed testing after the window ends on March 10, 2017.

If local education agencies (LEAs) have questions regarding the particular testing needs of individual ELs, especially those who are Hearing Impaired or Deaf, Non-Verbal, or those who will be participating in either the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science or Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA), they should contact Janet Stuck at 860-713-6837.

NEW	**Next Generation Accountability Results Released**

On March 1, 2017, the CSDE released the 2015-16 Next Generation Accountability results. A press release highlights the data from release. Connecticut improved on almost all indicators in 2015-16 over the previous year. Results are available on the Performance Office Web site for all districts and schools. The results include the following:

- Data for All Districts and Schools (Excel file)

- Statewide Report

- Schools of Distinction

- School Categories

When interpreting and sharing the 2015-16 accountability results, including making comparisons to the 2014-15 results, please note the following:

- Accountability results for 2015-16 include matched student cohort growth (indicator 2) in school/district accountability for the first time. Growth carries considerable weight in the system. In fact, for 2015-16, the indicator 1 (achievement) weights were halved when growth was included. Therefore, CSDE does not recommend comparing accountability indexes for all schools from 2014-15 to 2015-16.

- When making comparisons for schools across two years, the best approach is to focus on change in individual indicators. There are two notable exceptions because of significant assessment changes. For high schools, the Grade 11 assessment in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics changed from Smarter Balanced in 2014-15 to SAT in 2015-16. Additionally, the Grades 3-8 ELA assessment in 2014-15 included a performance task, but the 2015-16 assessment did not. Therefore, in these situations, we discourage comparisons across years for Indicator 1.

The following resources are available on our Web site to assist in interpreting and sharing results:

- Using Accountability Results to Guide Improvement

- Two-page FAQ

- Sample district communication presentation

If you have any questions, please email Ajit Gopalakrishnan or Renee Savoie.

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2016-17 Important Dates

Event	Dates
The secure browsers for the 2016-17 school year 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

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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