# CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## CSDE

Performance Office

**STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS**

**May 16, 2017**

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## NEW  Summative Assessment Updates

### Reminder Recently Sent to PSIS Coordinators

The following reminder was recently sent to district PSIS Coordinators from the Performance Office.

*Please review the "Missing CT Testing Demographic Status Values" report in the Public School Information System (PSIS) Registration and make the appropriate changes. If you discover a student is incorrectly listed on the report, please contact Kendra Shakir immediately at kendra.shakir@ct.gov.* **Student demographic values will be saved and the fields will be locked in PSIS on May 26, 2017. This report must be completed by noon on May 26, 2017. We will not be able extend this due date,** *so please work now to complete this report.*

*This report is located in the Reports section of the Registration module. In the download section you can also download the Active Registration (currently-registered students) with CT Testing Demographic Status Values. This download allows you to see the values being reported for students currently registered to your district in PSIS.*

### *Important notes*

- *Students who enroll from outside the Connecticut public schools after May 22, 2017, will not be required to take the Smarter Balanced assessments.*
- ***The grade in PSIS should always reflect the grade in which the student is being educated****.*
- *Changes will appear in TIDE the day after those changes are made in PSIS.*

### Testing Students Identified with a Generic/Other Code in PSIS

Connecticut Public Schools are responsible to test students in the Public School Information System (PSIS) identified with a "Generic/Other" code for their Facility One. Testing these students would be applicable even if these students are enrolled in out-of-state schools or are enrolled in in-state non-approved schools. For these students, the Testing/Reporting District is the PSIS Reporting District, so that is the district that will be able to test the student in the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE). If a Connecticut public school is responsible to test a student because they have been assigned with this code, please refer to guidance in the **Students in PSIS who attend Out-of-State Facilities or In-State Non-Approved Facilities** resource.

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## Summative Assessment Updates continued

Please note:

- Only individuals with the user role of District Administrator (DA) can access out-of-state students or students attending non-approved facilities in TIDE.
- Only the DA can enter a CTAA and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklists Science Eligibility & Learner Characteristics Inventory (LCI) or supports and/or accommodations for these students in TIDE.
- Only the DA may enter the test data for the standard assessments or the alternate assessments into the Data Entry Interface (DEI) for students attending an out-of-state or non-approved school.  (**Test window closes May 26, 2017.**)

District administrators should contact Janet Stuck at 860-713-6837 or Joe Amenta at 860-713 6855 with the following information to obtain required materials for these students.

| | |
|---|---|
| SASID | Name of Out-of-State or Non-Approved School |
| District | Name of Contact at Out-of-State or Non-Approved School |
| Student Grade | Phone of Contact at Out-of-State or Non-Approved School |
| District Administrator (DA) e-mail | E-mail of Contact at Out-of-State or Non-Approved School |
| Tests being administered | Address of Out-of-State or Non-Approved School |

## Teacher Involvement in Smarter Balanced Item Review

Teachers from Connecticut have been selected to participate in item-review meetings for English language arts and mathematics by the Smarter Balanced Consortium.  The meetings are being held over the next several months and involve Grade 3-8 teachers from Connecticut and across the country.

## 2017 Next Generation Science Assessment Pilot Test Information

The test window for the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessment Pilot, is from May 1-26, 2017.  These resources are now available:
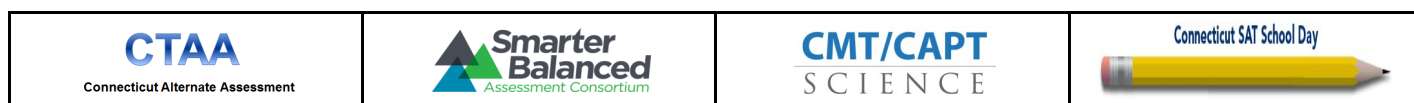
The NGSS Sample Items are available at the elementary-, middle- and high-school levels.  It is highly recommended that students take a sample-item set prior to taking the pilot test so that they can become familiar with the new formats of some of these test items.

A guide, How to Access and Score NGSS Sample Items, is also available to provide instructions on accessing and using the NGSS sample-item set.  Students will need approximately 20-30 minutes to complete the items.

A Next Generation Science Standards Assessment Pilot Test Administration Manual is available for Test Administrators.

A model Parent Letter has been prepared and can be adjusted to aid with communication.

Please contact Jeff Greig with any questions.

| NEW | **Special Populations Updates** |
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## Changes to the Individualized Education Program Page 9, State and District Testing and Accommodations

On April 28, 2017, then Interim Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Isabelina Rodriguez, issued a memorandum to the Directors of Special Education and Pupil Services regarding changes to the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Page 9, STATE AND DISTRICT TESTING AND ACCOMMODATIONS.  Please access the Bureau Bulletin for these important changes.

## Additional Guidance for the CTAA Early Stopping Rule

The Connecticut Alternate Assessment early Stopping Rule (ESR) is intended for those very few students who are not able to demonstrate an observable response in any way to the alternate assessment test items; and therefore, are not able to participate fully in the CTAA.  Additional information is provided in the CTAA Test Administration Manual.  New guidance has been posted on the CSDE portal and student assessment Web site describing the information required. Please see Guidance About Students Who Qualify For The Connecticut Alternate Assessment Early Stopping Rule.

## Late Submission of Learner Characteristics Inventory (LCI)

The Learner Characteristics Inventory (LCI) was due by March 17, 2017, in order to register an eligible student for alternate assessments (CTAA).  If a student is newly identified for this assessment, or if a teacher did not submit the LCI by the deadline date, it may be entered into the DEI now.  Once the LCI is submitted, the student's **State Assigned Student Identification Number (SASID) must be e-mailed to janet.stuck@ct.gov or joseph.amenta@ct.gov** so the alternate assessment indicator can be activated.  Until this indicator is activated, only standard assessments will be available for the student.

## Text-to-Speech Julie Voice License Update (WINDOWS ONLY)

NeoSpeech and AIR provide the Julie voice pack for the English text-to-speech user for your students to use on Windows machines with the online tests provided by AIR's Test Delivery System.  The license agreement between NeoSpeech and AIR was recently renewed and will extend through 2020.  However, the current license files associated with the voice packs expired on May 3, 2017.  Therefore, after May 3, 2017, districts need to copy a new license file to the appropriate folder on Windows machines used for student testing.  Districts do not need to re-install the voice pack itself, if it is already installed; they only need to update the license file, or "verification.txt" file.

The new verification.txt files are posted in TIDE at the same location the voice pack(s) is/are posted.  The complete voice pack package will also be updated to include the new verification.txt file for anyone installing the entire voice pack from scratch.  Separate instructions for installing the new verification.txt file are provided, but general users will follow the same steps they did when they installed the verification.txt file initially.

In short, if the Julie voice packs are used for student testing, the existing verification.txt file(s) should be replaced with the new verification.txt file(s) on Windows machines.  If the files are not updated, the Julie and Violeta voice packs will default to demo versions.

**Please note:** this is only for those who use Julie Voice Pack on the Windows machines.  This does not affect other devices such as Chromebooks, iPads, Linux, Androids or Macs.

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NEW **Special Populations Updates continued**

**Instructions for replacing license agreement for Julie Voice:**

1. Go to TIDE under: [General Resources ▼ Download Voice Pack] download the new verification.txt by clicking: [Download the Ne Julie License]

2. Save to your desktop.

3. Open the folder that contains the old verification.txt by clicking one of the links below:

   Most Windows PC use:

   C:\Program Files (x86)\VW\VT\Julie\M16-SAPI5\data-common\verify

   Some use:

   C:\Program Files\VW\VT\Julie\M16-SAPI5\data-common\verify\

4. Copy the new verification.txt file from your desktop to the folder you have open that contains the old verification.txt file.

**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** accommodation. The Text-to-Speech and Read Aloud Decision Guidelines 2016-2017 form must be submitted electronically for these students. Currently, there are students indicated in TIDE test settings for ELA passages without the submitted form on record. District administrators are encouraged to monitor the selection of this accommodation, and whether the Text-to-Speech and Read Aloud Decision Guidelines 2016-17 form has been submitted online. Additionally, if a student requires the Read Aloud of ELA passages accommodation, the student must have received a special accommodations approval letter from the CSDE prior to testing.

**English Learner Updates**

**English Language Proficiency (ELP) Assessment Participation**

Unlike in previous years, the CSDE will not collect student test information on those students who completed testing after the testing window closed on March 10, 2017. Only those students who are tested during the testing window will be reported. As described during training, if you had students during the testing window who were not able to access the speaking subtest because they are non-verbal, or the listening subtest because they are deaf or hearing impaired, please contact Janet Stuck at 860-713-6837. Additionally, if the English learner would qualify for the alternate assessment, if it were available, please contact Janet Stuck at 860-713-6837. This participation information is important for accurate scoring and for participation calculations, and will be collected until **June 1, 2017.**

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## SAVE THE DATE: Performance Matters Forum—September 12, 2017

District/school leaders, data managers, data entry staff, and IT staff should plan to join the CSDE Performance Office on September 12, at the Radisson Hotel in Cromwell, for an intensive and interactive one-day professional learning experience.  The Performance Matters Forum will offer sessions focused on the following five topic areas:

- Data Collection
- Assessment
- EdSight
- Accountability
- Research/Evaluation

Additional details for this event will be posted on the Forum webpage as they are finalized.

## Connecticut SAT School Day Updates

### Connecticut SAT School Day Results

A letter was e-mailed on May 5, 2017, to schools regarding the release of results from the April 5, 2017, Connecticut SAT School Day.  Student-level results were available on May 8, 2017, to students using their accounts through the College Board portal.  Schools were able to download their data through the College Board portal on May 9, 2017.  Results for students who took the test on April 25 or 26 will be available in mid-June.  The CSDE expects to release preliminary aggregate statewide and school-level results from the April 5 administration sometime in June.  A Reporting FAQ provides information on the distinction between the College Board Portal and the CSDE's EdSight reporting.

## Kindergarten Assessment Update

A May 2, 2016, letter from the Commissioner indicated that the CSDE would be implementing a new Kindergarten assessment.  At this time there is no timeline for the implementation of the new assessment.  Districts must continue to administer and report data from the legacy kindergarten entrance inventory.  If there are any questions, please contact Michelle Rosado.

## 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 |
| Connecticut Smarter Balanced Assessment Window | Monday, March 27, 2017-Friday, May 26, 2017 |
| Connecticut Alternate Assessment | Monday, March 27, 2017-Friday, May 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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