



STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

March 26, 2019

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)
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CSDE's New Monthly Newsletter: EducateCT

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

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has a new monthly e-mail newsletter, **EducateCT**. Each issue will feature a selection of recent news, updates, agency initiatives and upcoming events. The [first issue](#) was published on March 15, 2019. Please use the following link to subscribe: <https://confirmsubscription.com/h/j/EB76112C1DBF6958>.

[Connecticut SAT School Day Updates](#)



Office Hours for Smarter, NGSS, CTAA and CTAS

[Testing Demographics and PSIS](#)

The CSDE staff will be hosting Office Hour webinars. On the webinars, the CSDE staff and their partner vendor, American Institutes for Research (AIR), will provide brief, weekly assessment updates and will also be available for phone support. Below are the details of the Office Hours.

[Special Populations Updates](#)

Intended Audience: Any district/school staff who may oversee state summative testing.

[NGSS Assessment Periodic Table](#)

When: Every Thursday beginning March 28, and ending June 6, from 3—4 p.m.

[Parent Letters](#)

Where/How: Please register for each week using the link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/231570739438409987>.

[Assessment Calendar for 2018-19](#)



Advanced Placement Computer Science Female Diversity Award

[Student Assessment Newsletter Most Commonly Used Acronyms](#)
[Register for E-mail Updates](#)

Recently, the College Board acknowledged thirteen schools in Connecticut that earned the first College Board *AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award* for achieving high female representation in AP Computer Science A (CSA) and/or AP Computer Science Principles (CSP). Schools honored with the *AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award* have expanded girls' access in AP computer science exams. Out of more than 18,000 secondary schools worldwide that offer AP exams, the 13 schools below are among the 685 schools to accomplish this.

Schools receiving the *AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award* have either 50% or higher female representation in one

Daniel Hand High School	Capital Preparatory Magnet School
Stonington High School	Global Communications Academy
Watertown High School	E C Goodwin Technical High School
Berlin High School	Academy of Aerospace and Engineering
Bolton High School	Wilbur Cross High School
Greenwich High School	North Haven High School
Marine Science Magnet High School	

of the two AP computer science exams or a percentage of the female computer science examinees meeting or exceeding that of the school's female population. Of the 685 schools that received the *AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award*, 490 were honored for AP CSP, 167 for AP CSA, and 28 for both exams.

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Connecticut SAT School Day Updates

Test Coordinator Workshop Materials

Slides from the Test Coordinator (TC) Workshop have been posted to the [CSDE’s Connecticut SAT School Day Web site](#). There is a PowerPoint version and PDF. A shortened version of this training is [recorded and posted](#) to this site. Please feel free to use this recorded version if you missed the in-person training or for any staff training you may be conducting.

Test Coordinator Survey

As discussed at the TC Workshops, new this year, all Test Coordinators must complete a one-minute survey regarding test security and staff training. Please complete the [online survey](#) **as soon as possible**.

Fee Waivers

The process for Fee Waivers has changed. Test Coordinators received an e-mail from the College Board on March 11, detailing the new process. A document that describes the [Fee Waiver Process](#) is available on our web site. New this year, Test Coordinators must have access to the **College Board’s K-12 Educators Score Reporting Portal** in order to receive the Fee Waiver codes for your eligible students. If you do not have access to this site, please contact your school principal.

Connecticut SAT School Day Materials

Connecticut SAT School Day materials have begun to ship to the attention of Test Coordinators. Review the table below to plan for receiving and checking materials and to find information about the various forms and publications used for administering the test. Please refer to page 8 in the [Test Coordinator Manual](#) for more details about each shipment.

- Coordinator Planning Kit includes a few copies of each manual, forms, posters, etc.
- Pre-administration shipment will come in two parts—arriving within the same window. The first part will include answer sheets and student guides, along with all manuals needed for testing. The second part is the pre-ID labels for all students included in February pre-ID uploads.
- Test materials, which will include test books, forms, envelopes for returning materials and other materials needed for test day. Accommodated materials will come in a separate shipment during the same window.

Materials Shipments	March 27 test day	April 9 test day
Coordinator Planning Kit	2/6/19-2/8/19	2/6/19-2/8/19
Pre-ID Materials	3/5/19-3/7/19	3/19/19-3/21/19
Test Materials	3/19/19-3/21/19	3/26/19-3/28/19

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Connecticut SAT School Day Updates (continued)

Connecticut SAT School Day Student Rosters

The CSDE registers all Grade 11 students in the Public School Information System (PSIS) to take the Connecticut SAT School Day. However, schools or districts must create their own roster of Grade 11 students testing on the Connecticut SAT School Day. Schools or districts may use the PSIS to create a list of all Grade 11 students who are registered through PSIS to take the 2019 Connecticut SAT School Day. The district PSIS coordinator will need to follow these steps to print a roster:

1. log into the PSIS Registration Module;
2. click on the Downloads Link; and
3. select Active Registration and click on Download.

The file will show all of the students actively registered in the district and can be sorted by grade.

Schools will still have access to the Nonstandard Administration Report (NAR) through the College Board's Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) system a few weeks before testing. The NAR provides a list of **ALL** students who are approved for accommodations in the SSD for the 2019 Connecticut SAT School Day.

Translated Test Directions for 2019 Administration

Translated test directions for the 2019 Connecticut SAT School Day have been posted to the CSDE [Web site](#). The directions are available in 13 languages: Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Chinese, Arabic, Haitian Creole, Russian, Polish, Bengali, Albanian, Gujarati, Hindi, and Urdu. 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.

Closure or Delay

- If school is closed, contact Michelle Rosado at the CSDE immediately at 860-713-6748 to report the closure. Testing will need to occur on the makeup administration dates of April 23 and 24, 2019.
- If school has a delayed opening of 90 minutes or less, contact Michelle Rosado at the CSDE immediately at 860-713-6748 to report the delay. Plan to test your standard students, as long as your school is able to complete the four hours of testing before the end of the school day and without breaking for lunch. Move any students with 50% extended time to the makeup administration dates of April 23 and April 24, 2019. Students testing with a non-standard test should be tested during the two week accommodated window.
- If school has a delayed opening of more than 90 minutes or must dismiss early, contact Michelle Rosado at the CSDE immediately at 860-713-6748 to report the delay or early dismissal. Testing may need to occur on the makeup administration dates of April 23 and 24, 2019, unless your school is able to complete the four hours of testing before the end of the school day and without breaking for lunch. Move any students with 50% extended time to the makeup administration dates of April 23 and April 24, 2019. Students testing with a non-standard test should be tested during the two-week accommodated window.



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Testing Demographics and Public School Information System

The Public School Information System (PSIS) provides data to test delivery systems for state summative assessments administered to Connecticut public school students. These assessments include the LAS Links, Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), Smarter Balanced, Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) in English language arts and mathematics, Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS), and the Connecticut SAT School Day. **District PSIS Coordinators must work closely with District Administrators (DAs) responsible for statewide student testing, to ensure that student information is being reported accurately.** The state relies on districts to provide accurate reporting of seven of these individual student demographic fields at the time of testing. Select fields such as EL status, Special Education (SPED) status and Section 504 status **must** be updated prior to testing to ensure students eligible for accommodations may access them. Data are used for public and secure reporting of statewide test results and as part of Connecticut’s Next Generation Accountability System.

The PSIS Registration module has been updated to include the following Testing Demographic fields:

- Special Education (SPED) Status;
- Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) Status;
- English Learner (EL) Status;
- Military Family;
- Homeless;
- Recently Arrived EL; and
- Section 504 Status.

These seven values must reflect the student’s status at the time of testing for the 2018-19 school year. The SPED, FRL, EL, Military Family, and Homeless have been loaded with the values reported in the October PSIS Collection Freeze Zero file (i.e., freeze file from the collection generated on November 2, 2018). The values for Recently Arrived EL and Section 504 were not pulled from Freeze Zero because these data are not reported in the PSIS October collection. These values have been set to “No” in the Registration Module and must be updated in the PSIS Registration Module for testing and reporting purposes.

Please note that if the status of any of the first five fields changed from the value reported in the October PSIS Collection Freeze Zero, or if the student being tested was not in the PSIS October Collection Freeze Zero, the District PSIS Coordinator must update the student’s record in the PSIS Registration Module. Changes to the Testing Demographic data can be made via the “Edit Registration/Unregister” page in the PSIS Registration Module or by batch. The Testing Demographics Record Layout for batch uploads can be found in the [PSIS Reference Guide](#) located on the PSIS help site.

District PSIS Coordinators must make all changes to student enrollment and demographic information directly into the PSIS Registration Module. Student demographic values will be saved and the fields locked in PSIS on **June 7, 2019** (i.e., the last day of the summative test window), so all changes to a student’s status at the time of testing can and must be made by then. For LAS Links accountability calculations, **a freeze of the fields was taken on March 8, 2019**, which was the final **date of the LAS Links testing window**.

The “Missing Connecticut Testing Demographic Status Values” report is available in the PSIS Registration Module, and the Active Roster download has been updated to include the Testing Demographic values. Data from the PSIS Registra-



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Testing Demographics and Public School Information System (Continued)

tion Module are updated on a nightly basis in both the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) and the Data Recognition Corporation (DRC's) INSIGHT System. Currently, the Testing Demographic fields are optional for all students; once the Smarter Balanced testing begins, values will be required for students in Grades 3-8, and 11. **Again, these seven fields in the PSIS Registration Module must reflect the student's status at the time of testing.**

In order to enter accommodations in TIDE, students must be identified as Special Education or Section 504 in the PSIS Registration Module. Similarly, in order for a student to access a LAS Links assessment in the DRC Insight system, a student must be identified as an English learner in the PSIS Registration Module. Additionally, a student may be identified as both an English learner and a student with disabilities, and should have been reflected as such in the PSIS testing demographic fields prior to the opening of the LAS Links testing window which ended on March 8, 2019. Please note that any changes to a student's SPED status can create cases on the Nexus Discrepancy Report in the Registration Module. It is important that you closely monitor **ALL** reports in PSIS to ensure all student data is being reported accurately. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact [Kendra Shakir](#).

Spring 2019 CT Testing Demographic Status Only available during testing. EL, Special Education, and Section 504 required for K - 12 during LAS Links; all required for 3 - 8 and 11 during CT Comprehensive Assessments.					
English Learner (EL):	<input type="text" value="No"/>	Recently Arrived EL:	<input type="text" value="No"/>	Military Family:	<input type="text" value="No"/>
Special Education:	<input type="text" value="No"/>	Section 504:	<input type="text" value="No"/>		
Free/Reduced Lunch Eligible:	<input type="text" value="Free"/>	Homeless:	<input type="text" value="00 - Not homeless"/>		



Special Populations Updates

Embedded and Non-Embedded Designated Supports for English Learners Brochure

Please take some time to familiarize yourself with a variety of designated and non-designated supports available to English learners participating in the Smarter Balanced math and English language arts assessments and NGSS. Additionally, please share this [resource](#) with teachers and administrators who can determine if these supports are appropriate for their students.

CTAS Updates

The CTAS is a non-secure test that should be administered throughout the school year. All Performance Tasks must be administered prior to June 7, 2019, and ratings from the Student Scoring Worksheets must be uploaded through the Data Entry Interface by June 7. The Teachers Administering the Alternate (TEAs) should refer to the [Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment TEA Responsibility Checklist](#) for pre-planning activities. As a reminder, hard-copy test materials were sent to District Administrators (DAs) in October 2018, and [digital copies](#) of the CTAS are available on the Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal.

Learner Characteristics Inventory

All Learner Characteristics Inventories (LCIs) should have been entered through the Data Entry Interface (DEI) as of February 1, 2019, by the Trained TEA. For submissions after this date, contact [Deirdre Ducharme](#) at 860-713-6859 or [Janet Stuck](#) at 860-713-6837 to ensure that the associated alternate assessment indicators can be updated providing access to alternate assessments for eligible at the time of testing.



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Special Populations Updates (continued)

Accessing Text-to-Speech for Smarter Balanced or NGSS

Text-to-Speech Tool Options for Questions

1

What is the product of 68 and 90?

(A) 612
(B) 1,260
(C) 6,120
(D) 6,300

- Tutorial
- Mark for Review
- Speak Question
- Speak Question and Options

To listen to content with the Text-to-Speech accessibility feature please see below.

- To listen to a question or answer options, students open the question context menu and select one of the following **Speak** options:
 - ⇒ To listen only to the question, students select **Speak Question**.
 - ⇒ To listen to a multiple-choice question and all answer options, students select **Speak Question and Options**.
 - ⇒ To listen only to an answer option, select **Speak Option** from the context menu and then select the answer option. Students could also right-click the answer option and select **Speak Option**.
 - ⇒ To listen to a specific portion of text, highlight the text you would like to listen to. Right-click the highlighted text and select **Speak Selection**.

Additionally, please note that Spanish Text-to-Speech and Spanish Translation for Science is not available on the interim assessments. This is a feature that will likely be available in the 2019-20 school year.



NGSS Assessment Periodic Table

The [online Periodic Table](#) is available for the Grade 8 and Grade 11 NGSS Assessment. This printed paper version of the online Periodic Table is available to all students as an option.



Parent Letters

Parent letters for [NGSS Science \(Grade 11\)](#) and [NGSS Science/Smarter Balanced \(Grades 3—8\)](#) are now available on the CSDE Website.



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Assessment Calendar for 2018-19

Event	Dates
The AIR secure browsers for the 2018-19 school year must be downloaded for all 2018-19 online tests	Currently available
Connecticut SAT School Day	Primary Test Dates: March 27, 2019, or April 9, 2019 (Based on school selection) Makeup Dates: April 23 and 24, 2019
NGSS Standard Assessment	February 4—June 7, 2019 (Grade 11) March 25—June 7, 2019 (Grades 5 and 8)
Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment - CTAS (Designed to be administered through the school year: student ratings will be entered in the DEI.)	(Upload Window for Submission through the DEI) March 25—June 7, 2019 (Grades 5, 8, and 11)
Connecticut Smarter Balanced	March 25—June 7, 2019 (Grades 3—8)
Connecticut Alternate Assessment - CTAA	March 25—June 7, 2019 (Grades 3—8, 11)

Student Assessment Newsletter Most Commonly Used Acronyms

AIR	American Institutes for Research	LCI	Learner Characteristics Inventory
AP	Advanced Placement®	NAR	Nonstandard Administration Report
CSDE	Connecticut State Department of Education	NGSS	Next Generation Science Standards
CTAA	Connecticut Alternate Assessment	PSIS	Public School Information System
CTAS	Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment	SAN	Student Assessments Newsletter
DA	District Administrator (in TIDE)	SASID	State Assigned Student Identification Number
DEI	Data Entry Interface	SBAC	Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium
DRC	Data Recognition Corporation	SPED	Special Education
EL	English learner	SSD	Services for Students with Disabilities
ELA	English Language Arts	TC	Test Coordinator
ELAC	English Learner Assessment Coordinator	TEA	Teacher Administering the Alternate
FRL	Free and Reduced Lunch	TIDE	Test Information Distribution Engine
IEP	Individualized Education Program		

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.

