CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Performance Office

STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

January 16, 2020

District Administrator Workshops

District Administrator (DA) Workshops are scheduled for January 22, 23, and 24, 2020, at The Club at [Rentschler Field](#), 615 Silver Lane, East Hartford. For events at The Club, please use the stadium entrance on Silver Lane. **Please note this change of venue from previous years**. There are five sessions to choose from and each session will repeat the same content. The session on January 23, from 12:30-3:30 p.m. is for **new** DAs, but any District Administrator may attend this session. Training will be provided for the administration of the **Smarter Balanced Assessments for English language arts/literacy and mathematics, Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA), and the Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS) Assessment**. District Administrators will be provided with information to support the training of school coordinators and test administrators. Registration is limited to **two** attendees per district. Attendance is strongly encouraged.

[Register for the January 22, 2020 8:30-11:30 a.m.](#)	[Register for the January 22, 2020 12:30-3:30 p.m.](#)
[Register for the January 23, 2020 8:30-11:30 a.m.](#)	**NEW DAs** [Register for the January 23, 2020 12:30-3:30 p.m.](#)
Friday A.M. Session Only [Register for the January 24, 2020 8:30-11:30 a.m.](#)	

Important Message **www.ctreports.com Closing on January 31, 2020**

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) will no longer be maintaining and supporting the Web site www.ctreports.com beyond **January 31, 2020**. As a reminder, www.ctreports.com houses the Connecticut Mastery Test (Grades 3-8) and the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (Grade 10) data from the 2000-01 school year through the 2014-15 school year. This means that after January 31, 2020, the public and secure sites will be taken down and not accessible. If districts have a need for this data, it is recommended the data be downloaded before the closing date.

CTAA Connecticut Alternate Assessment | Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment | **Smarter Balanced** Assessment Consortium | CONNECTICUT NEXT GENERATION **SCIENCE** ASSESSMENT | Connecticut SAT School Day

NEW PSIS and Summative Assessments

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) Assessment, and the Connecticut SAT School Day. More information on the connection between PSIS and the state summative assessments can be found in the resource, The Public School Information System and State Summative Assessments.

Spring 2020 Testing Using the AIR Secure Browser and Test Delivery System

In preparation for the 2020 testing using the American Institutes for Research (AIR) Test Delivery System, note the following resource regarding the AIR Secure Browser. The AIR provides updates to the Secure Browser for each supported operating system. These Secure Browser updates are provided by AIR annually, or when deemed necessary if bugs in the Secure Browser are detected. The Operating System Support Plan for Test Delivery document describes AIR's plan for supporting operating systems during the upcoming test administration and beyond. *It is strongly recommended that districts review this resource to manage operating system deployments based on the support timelines.*

NEW AIR Acquired By Cambium Learning

On December 31, 2019, Cambium Learning Group, Inc. ("Cambium Learning"), completed its acquisition of AIR Assessment, the student assessment division of the American Institutes for Research ("AIR"). Since 1999, AIR Assessment has become one of the fastest-growing brands in the assessment field. Last school year, the AIR Assessment delivered more than 60 million online tests in more than 25 states. The new business unit, Cambium Assessment, Inc. ("Cambium Assessment"), combined with the existing Cambium Learning companies, brings together advanced K-12 assessment services with research-based, individualized instruction.

As a result, districts will begin to see the name, Cambium Assessment, in association with the activities related to the administration the Smarter Balanced Assessment, the Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment (CTAS), the Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA), and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessment. Nothing will change in terms of the district, school, or student interaction with the vendor and the systems used for the assessments other than the appearance of the new name on publications, etc. Cambium Assessment will be executing the remainder of these assessment contracts.

LAS Links Assessment Dates	Important Activity
January 13, 2020-January 20, 2020 February 10, 2020-February 17, 2020	LAS LINKS English Learner Accommodations Entry Windows
January 15, 2020	Alternate Assessment Eligibility and Domain Exemption Registration Deadline
January 20, 2020	English Learner LAS Links Accommodated/Paper Materials Order Deadline (Final request pick up date February 26, 2020)

Connecticut SAT School Day Updates

Accommodations Office Hours Session

Do you have questions about how to enter accommodations for your students on the Connecticut SAT School Day? An Office Hours session has been scheduled for **January 27, 2020, from 2-3 p.m.,** that will focus on entering accommodations for Special Education, 504 and English learner (EL) students. Please register in advance. Time for questions will be provided.

This session has been scheduled in advance of the February 2020, Test Coordinator Workshops because the deadline to enter accommodations for the Connecticut SAT School Day is February 4, 2020, which occurs during the workshops. This is the perfect time to get a refresher or get any remaining questions answered.

Testing Students with Accommodations on the Connecticut SAT School Day

Students with an active Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 plan may be eligible for accommodations for the Connecticut SAT School Day. Additionally, students who are identified as ELs are allowed to receive 50 percent extended time by applying for this support through the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Online, as well as in addition to other language supports.

Tasks for SSD Coordinators

- The management of accommodations for students with an IEP, Section 504 Plan, or students identified as ELs is the responsibility of the school's SSD coordinator. The school's SSD coordinator must enter and maintain the **most current** information in the College Board's SSD site for all students.
- In order for students to receive accommodations on the Connecticut SAT School Day, they must be Special Education, 504, or EL students at the time of testing as indicated in the CSDE's PSIS Registration Module.
- The SSD coordinators should work with their colleagues to identify students who have an active IEP or Section 504 plan, or who are current EL students to ensure that their accommodation needs are entered in the SSD **prior to February 4, 2020**.

Entries submitted through the SSD online after February 4, 2020, may result in delayed review and approval by the College Board or impact the provision of accommodated test materials prior to the school's primary test date. Students **may not test with accommodations** unless approved by the College Board. For additional information, contact Deirdre Ducharme.

Adding or Removing Accommodations from the SSD Online

In some cases, it may be that students have **exited special education status or they have a Section 504 plan that is no longer active**, and they are still approved for College Board accommodations based on past assessments such as the PSAT. The accommodations for these students should be removed from the SSD Online because they are not eligible for accommodations on the Connecticut SAT School Day.

In order to remove SPED or 504 students from the College Board's SSD, the SSD coordinator must login to the College Board SSD Online System. To access the eligibility roster, select the "Create Eligibility Roster" button at the top of the page. The eligibility roster includes all students approved by grade level, for the school code of their attending institution (AI). If the student(s) are no longer receiving accommodations in school (exited SPED or 504), the SSD coordinator will need to print the roster and mark the checkbox "No Longer Needs Accommodations" for each applicable student. These changes must be made by **February 4, 2020.**

Connecticut SAT School Day Updates (continued)

Request for Additional Documentation through SSD Online

Some submissions through the SSD Online platform will request additional documentation. For the purposes of the Connecticut SAT School Day, upload this form to overwrite the system.

As a reminder, the request for accommodations should be supported by the student's disability and need. To expedite the approval process for students with a Physical/Medical category of "Other," please provide a brief explanation using the drop-down text box to describe the student's need for that accommodation. This will ensure that student is approved for the most appropriate accommodation(s) to meet their unique needs. For example, if 100 percent extended time is requested for a student with an "Other" category solely to address his/her anxiety, a more appropriate support may be recommended for that student, such as breaks as needed. In some circumstances, you may be contacted by the CSDE to provide additional information about the student to determine evidence for approval for the requested accommodation(s).

Supports for English Learners

The SSD online will accept **50 percent extended time requests for English learners** on **January 14 through February 4, 2020.** Refer to this brochure to follow the proper procedures for submitting this support. Students approved for this support will receive 50 percent extended time for the entire assessment.

Translated directions are available in 13 languages, including French, which was added this year. These resources will be available on the Connecticut SAT School Day Web page prior to testing. Schools will print the needed language(s) and distribute to students on test day. This support does not need to be requested through the SSD Online.

Approved Word-to-Word Glossaries are available for students by their school on test day. Schools are responsible for collecting them when testing is complete. This support does not need to be requested through the SSD Online.

Connecticut SAT School Day Test Coordinator Training

Test Coordinator training for the **2020 Connecticut SAT School Day** will take place on February 4 and 5, 2020, at The Club at Rentschler Field, 615 Silver Lane, East Hartford. For events at The Club, please use the stadium entrance on Silver Lane. Schools may send **two** people to **one** of the four repeated trainings. The session on February 5, 2020, from 12:00-3:30 p.m. is intended for **new** test coordinators, but any test coordinator may attend this session. Space is available at the two afternoon sessions. Attendance is strongly encouraged.

Register for CT SAT February 4, 2020, from 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Register for CT SAT February 5, 2020, from 12:00-3:30 p.m.

NEW Special Populations Updates

Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Forms

As a reminder, the deadlines are nearing for the submission of the Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility forms via the Data Entry Interface (DEI). Note the following deadlines based on grade enrollment.

January 15, 2020   Students in Grade 11; and students dually identified (English learner and Special Education) in Grades 3-8 and 11

February 14, 2020   Students in Grades 3-8; Extended window for new Grade 11 students

After January 15, the CSDE and AIR will begin the activation of the Alternate Assessment Flag indicators for those students with a submitted eligibility form. It is critical that for any late submissions through the DEI, the District Administrator contact the Performance Office to have these flags activated in the student's TIDE account; otherwise, the student will only have access to the standard assessments at the time of testing. Please communicate to your staff the importance of the deadlines stated above to minimize test irregularities and unnecessary impact on student time.

Speech-to-Text

Have you reviewed the Speech-to-Text brochure to determine if this accommodation is appropriate for your students? The Performance Office receives an influx of questions this time of year regarding the provision of the speech-to-text accommodation for Smarter Balanced and NGSS Assessments. To address the complexities of this topic given the item design of the math, English language arts, and science subtests, the secure Test Delivery System, the type of speech-to-text software used, and the unique needs of the student, we recommend reviewing this brochure to determine student need and appropriateness of the speech-to-text accommodation on the summative assessments.

As a reminder, the majority of items across all grades on the Smarter Balanced Assessments, with the exception of the Math Performance Task and very few items on the ELA, are multiple-choice and technology enabled and <u>do not</u> require typed responses. No items on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessment require typed responses.

If a student requires a customized speech-to-text accommodation with the provision of a scribe, complete this form and fax to the Office of Student Assessment, along with Pages 1, 8, and 11 of the student's Individual Educational Program or the entire Section 504 Plan to 860-713-7033. **Customized Speech-to-Text Accommodation requests are due by January 24, 2020**. Districts will receive a written-approval letter via email from the CSDE upon the completion of process for each the application in the order received. Students **may not** use this accommodation until CSDE approval is granted.

Do you have students who need a scribe, a Read Aloud of ELA Reading Passages, or other special accommodations?

Special Documented Accommodations Deadline	Assessment
January 24, 2020	Smarter Balanced and NGSS
February 4, 2020	Connecticut SAT School Day

If you have students who require accommodations that are not currently provided through the College Board or in TIDE for the Smarter Balanced and NGSS Assessments, please contact the Performance Office. Refer to Appendix C of the Assessment Guidelines.

NEW Special Populations Updates (continued)

Text-to-Speech

My students use text-to-speech in the classroom. Can they use the text-to-speech for the ELA Reading Passages?
Generally speaking, the designated support of text-to-speech for <u>items in ELA</u> and <u>stimuli and items in math and science</u> is available to all students for whom a team has determined its appropriateness. However, special considerations must be made when determining if the text-to-speech of the <u>ELA reading passages</u> is appropriate as an *accommodation*. As a reminder, the construct of the ELA reading is to measure a student's reading comprehension of complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently. The provision of text-to-speech of the reading passages accommodation <u>should only</u> be provided in specific cases, otherwise inappropriate use of this accommodation may impact the performance results, the accuracy of interpretation of test results, and the comparison of the individual student with the test results of their peers.

However, when access to the reading passage text is compromised due to a student's documented disability (e.g., dyslexia, a print, or visual impairment), the provision of a text-to-speech of the reading passages may be appropriate and provide the most appropriate access to content for the student allowing them to demonstrate their abilities. Teachers, and Planning and Placement Teams (PPTs) should refer to the [Decision Guidelines for Text-to-Speech of the Smarter Balanced ELA Reading Passages](#) to confirm the appropriateness of this accommodation. If the majority of the responses on this form are "YES," **and** the student uses this accommodation regularly during instruction, **and** the accommodation is documented in the IEP or Section 504 Plan, then the provision of text-to-speech of the reading passages is appropriate. For more information, please refer to the [Assessment Guidelines](#).

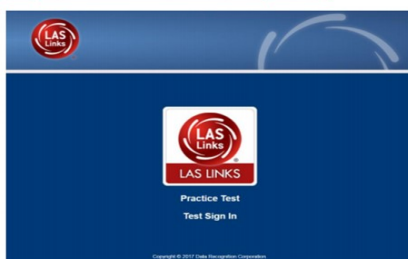### Audio CDs for Accommodated/Paper LAS Links Test Materials Orders

On January 7, 2020, an email was provided to the English Learner Assessment Coordinators (ELACs) as a reminder about critical dates in the LAS Links Assessment Process and about a memo posted for LAS Links entitled, [2020 LAS Links Receipt and Return of Accommodated/Paper Test Materials Memo](#). If a LAS Links Accommodated/Paper order is placed for Large Print or Braille, only the Braille materials will include an audio CD for the Listening subtest. Although the content is the same, the Large Print and Braille tests have fewer questions on each page, so they are designed to have proctors use the associated Large Print Examiner's Guides. Proctors are expected to read aloud the Listening items to the student. The current standard Form C Audio CD timing does not match the Large Print test forms. For instance, the CD would tell the students to "turn to the next page," but the student using the Large Print test form would be on a different page.

LAS Links Practice Test vs. Live Test

Please ensure students are **NOT** using their personal test tickets when accessing the practice site.

Practice Test: Highly recommended prior to live testing. Student technology readiness should be determined during the practice test.

https://wbte.drcedirect.com/LL/portals/ll

When the student is ready to take the live test, he/she should be given the test ticket and should click on the DRC INSIGHT App installed on the student device.

Note: students may also access the practice test by clicking on the app BUT do NOT give the student live test credentials (their test ticket) until they are ready to test.

NEW Special Populations Updates (continued)

Supports for English Learners

There are a variety of designated supports, including language supports, which English learners may benefit from. The Assessment Guidelines provides a description of how these supports work, while the following brochures provide additional context for how these supports function for specific subject areas:

Translation Glossary Brochure   Embedded and Non-Embedded Designated Supports for English Learners

Like all designated supports and accommodations, it is recommended that teachers explore these supports using the Smarter Balanced Practice Tests to learn how they function. Teachers should also work alongside their students during a Practice Test administration to try out these supports to confirm their appropriateness and need, as well as show students how to navigate the designated supports with independence and confidence.

Clarification/Update LAS Links Default Text-to-Speech Functionality: Without the Text-to-Speech Accommodation

Before entering accommodations for Dually Identified Students into the INSIGHT Portal, consider that the assessment *does* read several sections of the assessment. See the table below for content that is read to the student via the computer, even when no accommodations are selected.

LAS Links Default Text-to-Speech Functionality Without Accommodations				
Assessment Grade Band	**Domain**	**Directions Read?**	**Prompt/Response Options Read?**	**Notes**
Grade K (Eng. Form C)	Listening	Yes	Yes	Reads question only one time, student answers multiple choice
Grade K (Eng. Form C)	Reading	Yes	Yes	Question built into Directions
Grade K (Eng. Form C)	Speaking	Yes	Yes	Question built into Directions
Grade K (Eng. Form C)	Writing	Yes	Yes	Question built into Directions
Grade 1 (Eng. Form C)	Listening	Yes	Yes	Reads question only one time, student answers multiple choice
Grade 1 (Eng. Form C)	Reading	Yes	Yes	Question built into Directions
Grade 1 (Eng. Form C)	Speaking	Yes	Yes	Question built into Directions
Grade 1 (Eng. Form C)	Writing	Yes	Yes	Question built into Directions
Grades 2-3 (Eng. Form C)	Listening	Yes	Yes	Reads question only one time, student answers multiple choice
Grades 2-3 (Eng. Form C)	Reading	Yes	Yes	*Only reads first two question directions, rest are not read aloud
Grades 2-3 (Eng. Form C)	Speaking	Yes	Yes	Question built into Directions
Grades 2-3 (Eng. Form C)	Writing	No	No	
Grades 4-5 (Eng. Form C)	Listening	Yes	Yes	Reads question only one time, student answers multiple choice
Grades 4-5 (Eng. Form C)	Reading	No	No	
Grades 4-5 (Eng. Form C)	Speaking	Yes	Yes	Question built into Directions
Grades 4-5 (Eng. Form C)	Writing	No	No	
Grades 6-8 (Eng. Form C)	Listening	Yes	Yes	Reads question only one time, student answers multiple choice
Grades 6-8 (Eng. Form C)	Reading	No	No	
Grades 6-8 (Eng. Form C)	Speaking	Yes	Yes	Question built into Directions
Grades 6-8 (Eng. Form C)	Writing	No	No	
Grades 9-12 (Eng. Form C)	Listening	Yes	Yes	Reads question only one time, student answers multiple choice
Grades 9-12 (Eng. Form C)	Reading	No	No	
Grades 9-12 (Eng. Form C)	Speaking	Yes	Yes	Question built into Directions
Grades 9-12 (Eng. Form C)	Writing	No	No	

CTAA Connecticut Alternate Assessment   Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment   **Smarter Balanced** Assessment Consortium   CONNECTICUT NEXT GENERATION **SCIENCE** ASSESSMENT   Connecticut SAT School Day

Summative Assessment Calendar for 2019-20

Assessment	Dates
The AIR secure browsers for the 2019-20 school year must be downloaded for all 2019-20 online tests	Currently available
Connecticut SAT School Day Accommodations Window IEP and 504 Plan Accommodations Window	November 22, 2019-February 4, 2020
LAS Links	January 2, 2020–March 6, 2020
Connecticut SAT School Day Accommodations Window EL Students	January 14, 2020–February 4, 2020
Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form Deadline	January 15, 2020—students in Grade 11 and Dually Identified students in Grades 3-8 and 11; and February 14, 2020—students in Grades 3-8 and newly identified
LAS Links Accommodated Paper Form Orders	January 22, 2020
Special Documented Accommodations Deadline	January 24, 2020—Smarter and NGSS February 4, 2020—Connecticut SAT
NGSS Assessment	February 3–June 5, 2020 (Grade 11) March 23–June 5, 2020 (Grades 5 and 8)
Connecticut Alternate Assessment - CTAA	March 23–June 5, 2020
Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment - CTAS	(Upload Window for Submission through the DEI) March 23–June 5, 2020 (Grades 5, 8, and 11)
Connecticut Smarter Balanced	March 23–June 5, 2020
Connecticut SAT School Day	Primary Test Dates: March 25, 2020, **OR** April 14, 2020(Based on school selection) Makeup Dates: April 28 and/or 29, 2020

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.

CTAA
Connecticut Alternate Assessment

Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

CONNECTICUT NEXT GENERATION **SCIENCE** ASSESSMENT

Connecticut SAT School Day

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8