



STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS  
December 13, 2019

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)  
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860-713-6860



District Administrator Workshops and Connecticut SAT Test Coordinator Workshops

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

- [EL Updates](#)
- [Connecticut SAT School Day](#)
- [Updates](#)
- [Special Populations Updates](#)
- [Spring 2020 Testing Using the AIR Secure Browser and Test Delivery System](#)
- [Understanding of the Smarter Balanced Assessment System](#)
- [Summative Assessment Calendar for 2019-20](#)
- [Register for Email Updates](#)

**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 will be 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 Assessment (CTAS).** 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.

<a href="#">Register for the January 22, 2020, 8:30-11:30 a.m.</a>	<a href="#">Register for the January 22, 2020, 12:30-3:30 p.m.</a>
<a href="#">Register for the January 23, 2020, 8:30-11:30 a.m.</a>	<b><i>NEW DAs</i></b>
<a href="#">Register for the January 24, 2020, 8:30-11:30 a.m.</a>	<a href="#">Register for the January 23, 2020, 12:30-3:30 p.m.</a>

**Connecticut SAT 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. We will spend more time on the details of the administration at this session. Registration information and details are included in the links below. Attendance is strongly encouraged.

[Register for CT SAT February 4, 2020, from 8:30-11:30 a.m.](#)

[Register for CT SAT February 4, 2020, from 12:00-3:00 p.m.](#)

[Register for CT SAT February 5, 2020, from 8:30-11:30 a.m.](#)

***NEW Coordinators*** [Register for CT SAT February 5, 2020, from 12:00-3:30 p.m.](#)



**STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS**  
**December 13, 2019**



## EL Updates

English Learner Assessment Coordinators were provided access to the DRC InSight Portal to begin rostering students for the LAS Links Assessment. Please be aware of these considerations in addition to those described in previous Student Assessment News editions.

“Educator Scored” is visible but grayed out. Educator scoring is not applicable in Connecticut. Data Recognition Corporation scores all responses for all Connecticut students participating in the LAS Links, therefore, when rostering students for test sessions you may disregard “Educator Scored.”

Dually identified LAS Links student accommodations need to be entered during one of the following windows:

December 16, 2019-December 23, 2019;

January 13, 2020-January 20, 2020; and

February 10, 2020-February 17, 2020.

Dually identified Alternate Assessment students in Grades K-12 **must** be identified by January 15, 2020.

LAS Links Accommodated/Paper Materials **must** be ordered by January 22, 2020.

## English Learner Assessment Coordinator Resources and Communication

Please access the [English Language Proficiency Assessment—LAS Links](#) webpage for the 2019-20 ELAC Workshop materials, LAS Links IT Webinar materials, and recent communication including the [Dually Identified English Learner Proce-](#)



## Connecticut SAT School Day Updates

### SAT Q and A

A new resource is available for test coordinators. The [Connecticut SAT School Day Q and A](#) document provides the answers to many frequently asked questions around the administration of the Connecticut SAT, as well as links to many resources that support the test.

### 2020 Connecticut SAT School Day Test Coordinator Handbook

The [2020 Connecticut SAT School Day Test Coordinator Handbook](#) is an excellent resource available for all test coordinators but especially new coordinators. The handbook provides information to assist in the planning of the 2020 administration.

### 2020 Sample Parent Letters and FAQs

Connecticut SAT School Day sample parent letters in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) have been updated for 2020. Updated **Frequently Asked Questions for Families and Students** in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions for Districts & Schools](#) are also available.



**STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS**  
**December 13, 2019**



**Connecticut SAT School Day Updates**

**Accommodated Testing Window**

Students testing with certain approved accommodations must test within a two-week accommodated window. Please note the following:

- Students who will use accommodated (blue) testing materials can test on any day during the accommodated testing window.
- Students using the standard (purple) testing materials must test on the primary School Day test date (either March 25, or April 14, as selected by your school).
- Schools can still elect to test all non-standard testers beginning on the primary test date or schedule testing across the window to manage space and/or room constraints.
- Meet with staff to determine test schedule for students eligible to test in the accommodated window. If possible, start testing these students on the primary test date.
- Students who test over two days must test on consecutive days, and their testing must be completed within the accommodated window.

If a student is absent for the second day of testing, they can resume on the next day they return to school.

	<b>March SAT School Day Administration</b>	<b>April SAT School Day Administration</b>
<b>Primary Test Date</b>	March 25, 2020	April 14, 2020
<b>Accommodated Testing Window</b>	March 25–April 7, 2020	April 14–28, 2020
<b>Makeup Test Date</b>	April 28 and April 29, 2020	April 28 and April 29, 2020

**Reminder for Students Using MP3**

New for the 2020 test administration, the MP3 audio files will be available to download from the Services for Students with Disabilities ([SSD Online](#)). Although, the streaming option is designed to enhance the testing experience for students and allow for additional security and convenience for those administering the SAT, there are some set-up activities that are required:

**Prior to test day**, an application needs to be installed and tested on each computer used for MP3 audio testing. If you already installed the application for fall College Board testing, you do not need to reinstall. You will use the same application. Once installed, test the application to ensure it will work for your students on test day. We recommend SSD coordinators review the functionality of the streaming application by accessing the sample form prior to test day. This is to ensure that everything is working as expected and to get yourself familiar with accessing the test day content. **On test day**, download the audio files. More information/instructions are available on the [MP3 Streaming Application Access Page](#) in [SSD Online](#).

**STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS**  
**December 13, 2019**



**Special Populations Updates**

**Special Documented Accommodations**

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 Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), or the Connecticut SAT School Day. In these cases, upon request, the District Administrator (DA in the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE)) will be provided information regarding a [Petition for Approval of Special Documented Accommodations](#). To initiate this request the DA **must** contact the Performance Office at 860-713-6860. Please refer to the [Assessment Guidelines](#) for more information.

Special Documented Accommodations Deadline	Assessment
December 9, 2019-January 24, 2020	Smarter Balanced and NGSS
November 22, 2019-February 4, 2020	Connecticut SAT School Day

**Preparing for Testing for Students Who Do Not Qualify for Alternate Assessments**

With testing just a couple months away, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) would like to encourage school and specialized program educators, including those at Private Special Education Programs, to actively prepare for the administration of standard statewide assessments, even if historically, the students educated in a particular school, participated in alternate assessments.

This planning may require that programs educating students in Grade 11 work with the CSDE and College Board to ensure they have an Attending Institution (AI) Code and a designated test coordinator and Students with Disabilities (SSD) coordinator to manage tasks specifically related to the Connecticut SAT School Day. These logistics need to be established **now**, so that test coordinators receive regular updates and communication specific to the Connecticut SAT School Day. The SSD Coordinators will also need access to the College Board SSD Online for the submission of accommodation requests.

For students in Grades 3-8, this means that teachers should be familiar with universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations available to students who may be participating on the Smarter Balanced and NGSS Assessments. Supports and accommodations must be set in TIDE in advance of testing. Furthermore, educators should provide students with an opportunity to experience the online test format, and use of tools and supports, using the Practice Tests prior to spring test administration.

As a reminder, students qualify for participation on the Connecticut Alternate Assessments if they meet **all three evidence-based criteria** specified by the [Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form](#). Without this required evidence, students are expected to participate on the standard assessments: Smarter Balanced Math and English Language Arts (Grades 3-8), the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessments (Grades 5, 8, and 11), and the Connecticut SAT School Day (Grade 11).

Refer to the [November 26, 2019](#), edition of the *Student Assessment News* for information on the **Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment Administration, Speech-to-Text for Smarter Balanced (English language arts and mathematics), and permissible hand-held calculator use on the NGSS Assessments.**



**STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS**  
December 13, 2019



**Special Populations Updates (continued)**

**Submission of the Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form through the Data Entry Interface**

The Data Entry Interface (DEI) is open for the submission of the Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Forms. Forms should not be submitted unless students are eligible and meet **all three** of the required criteria specified by the form. The DEI will not accept submissions for responses that do not meet eligibility criteria. Please encourage your Teachers Administering the Alternate (TEAs) to respond accurately when submitting information, otherwise edits can only be made when the DA requests a test **reset** using the Appeals process in TIDE.

Given that an early submission of eligibility forms ensures that students will have access to the Alternate Assessment at the time of testing, please note the deadlines based upon the following testing windows:

Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form Submission Deadlines	Student Subgroup
January 15, 2020	Grade 11 students; Dually identified (special education and English learner) in Grades 3-8 and 11
February 14, 2020	Grades 3-8 students; Extended deadline for new Grade 11 students
June 5, 2020	Submissions are permitted after February 14, to account for changes to testing status per the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) and the enrollment of new students. Notify the Performance Office regarding any late submissions at 860-713-6860 so the Alternate Assessment Indicator can be activated in the student's TIDE account.  <b><i>The DEI closes on June 5, 2020.</i></b>



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

In preparation for 2020 testing using the American Institutes for Research (AIR) Test Delivery System, please note the following resource regarding the AIR Secure Browser. 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. *Districts are encouraged to review this resource to manage operating system deployments based on the support timelines.*



**STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS**  
December 13, 2019

**Summative Assessment Calendar for 2019-20**

Assessment	Dates
<a href="#">The AIR secure browsers for the 2019-20 school year must be downloaded for all 2019-20 online tests</a>	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 SAT School Day	<b>Primary Test Dates:</b> <b>March 25, 2020, or April 14, 2020</b> (Based on school selection)  <b>Makeup Dates:</b> <b>April 28 and/or 29, 2020</b>
NGSS Assessment	<b>February 3–June 5, 2020 (Grade 11)</b> <b>March 23–June 5, 2020 (Grades 5 and 8)</b>
Connecticut Smarter Balanced	March 23–June 5, 2020
Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment - CTAS	(Upload Window for Submission through the DEI) <b>March 23–June 5, 2020 (Grades 5, 8, and 11)</b>
Connecticut Alternate Assessment - CTAA	March 23–June 5, 2020

 **Understanding of the Smarter Balanced Assessment System**

The Performance Office recently created the [Information/Resources to Help Increase Understanding of the Smarter Balanced Assessment System](#) document that helps to synthesize the many resources and pieces of information that are involved with the administration of the Connecticut Smarter Balanced Assessment. This valuable resource outlines the Professional Learning, Support Materials, and elements of the assessment.

**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.

