



## STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

March 29, 2018

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

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### State Assessment Windows

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

The chart below lists the state assessment windows for the remainder of the year. The administration dates run until the end of May. Additionally, the Connecticut SAT School Day was administered on March 21, with make-up dates scheduled for April 24 and 25.

[Advanced Placement Exam Updates](#)

[Connecticut SAT School Day Updates](#)

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State Assessment	Testing Window	Resources
NGSS Field Test	March 26-May 25 (Grade 11) April 30-May 25 (Grade 5,8)	<a href="#">Resources for NGSS Field Test Administration</a>
Connecticut Alternate Science Field Test (CTAS)	Upload Dates: April 30-May 25	<a href="#">Resources for CTAS</a>
Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA)	March 26-May 25	<a href="#">Resources for CTAA Test Administration</a>
Connecticut Smarter Balanced	March 26-May 25	<a href="#">Resources for Smarter Balanced Test Administration</a>
Connecticut SAT School Day	Make-up Dates: April 24 and 25	<a href="#">Resources for Connecticut SAT School Day Administration</a>



### Chrome Browser

Previously, AIR planned on releasing an updated secure browser for the Chromebooks. After further consideration, AIR has decided not to rollout the new app this spring. Please continue using the 2017-18 version of the secure browser for Chromebooks (v3).



Connecticut Alternate Assessment



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**Advanced Placement Exam Updates**

Students taking Advanced Placement (AP) exams are given a no-cost opportunity to send their scores to at least one college (per year) by marking the appropriate four-digit college code on the test administration form. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the College Board encourage AP coordinators and teachers, as well as school counselors, to remind students of the importance of sending their AP scores to colleges regardless of their year of graduation, but particularly in their senior year. Encouraging students to enter the four-digit code of the college or university of their choice is a best practice for all students taking AP exams. The ultimate reward for AP students, teachers, and their high schools can occur only after students send their AP scores on to a college or university. Even sophomores and juniors are encouraged to take advantage of no-cost AP scores sends, because colleges value the early demonstrated interest a student is showing when sending AP scores.

Additionally, the CSDE and College Board will cover the entire cost of 2018 AP exams for low-income students who attend public school in Connecticut. Please make sure to have AP coordinators in your schools correctly code the invoice from the College Board for tests for low-income students so that the CSDE will be directly billed for these students. Please see the [College Board's AP Central Web site](#) for more information on what schools must do.



**Connecticut SAT School Day Updates**

**Make-up Test Materials**

There are two dates available for schools to use for the Connecticut SAT School Day make-up testing. The CSDE suggests that you use April 24, 2018, for testing all required students and April 25, 2018, for testing any students absent on April 24, 2018. Materials for the April 24 and 25, 2018, administration of the Connecticut SAT School Day will arrive in schools by April 20, 2018. For schools that are on break the week of April 16, 2018, materials will arrive by April 13, 2018. If schools/districts have not received materials by the dates indicated, please contact the College Board at 855-373-6387 immediately.

**Office Hours Webinars**

The CSDE will be hosting Office Hours webinars for the **Smarter Balanced Assessment, Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Field Tests (Alternate and Census), and the Connecticut Alternate Assessment**. 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.

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

**When:** Every Thursday beginning March 22 until May 24, (except for April 12) from 3-4 p.m.

**Where/How:** Please register for each week here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/5278114698288158466>.



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### Special Populations Updates

#### Connecticut Alternate Assessment Secure Testing Materials

The [Connecticut Alternate Assessment \(CTAA\) brochure](#) “How To Access and Download The CTAA Secure Testing Materials” provides instructions for how to access and download the CTAA secure testing materials from the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE). These grade- and subject-specific secure testing materials include **required** Directions for Test Administration and PDF test forms, which may be used for administering the CTAA to eligible students requiring this accommodation. The secure testing materials are available in TIDE to **District Administrators (DAs) and TEAs ONLY!**

#### Special Accommodations Request Reminder

Students participating in the Smarter Balanced or NGSS Science Assessments who require special accommodations to access the test, should have called the Student Assessment Office to open a record and submitted the [Petition for Approval of Special Documented Accommodations 2017-2018](#) by March 16, 2018. **The petition response letter approving the requested accommodations must be received by the student’s teacher prior to beginning any assessment with the requested accommodations.**

These special accommodations include the use of a Scribe, Read Aloud for ELA Passages, Print on Demand, the Human Signer Accommodations and for any accommodation not listed that is unique to the student. More information is available in the [2017-18 Assessment Guidelines](#) in Appendix B on page 41.

#### Students in PSIS who attend Out-of-State Facilities or In-State Non-Approved Non-Public Facilities

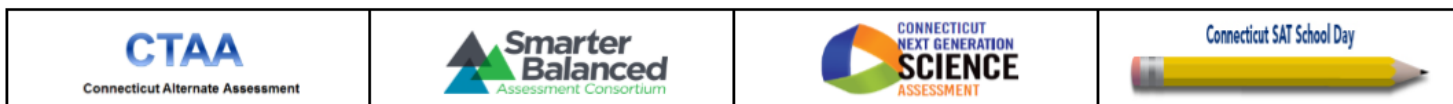
Connecticut public school districts are responsible to test students in the Public School Information System (PSIS) who are enrolled in out-of-state facilities or are enrolled in, in-state non-approved non-public schools. Information on how to administer the NGSS Assessment Field Test, NGSS Alternate Assessment Field Test, Smarter Balanced Assessment and the Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) are included in the [Students in PSIS who attend Out-of-State or In-State Non-Approved Facilities](#) document. It is also required that districts test these students in Grade 11 who are enrolled in out-of-state or in-state non-approved non-public programs with the Connecticut SAT School Day or CTAA.

#### TIDE Test Setting and Uploading Designated Supports/Accommodations

The Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) Test Setting Web site remains open throughout the testing window in order to continue to add or modify students’ test settings for students taking the Smarter Balanced Assessments and the NGSS Assessment Field Test. For districts who plan to do a batch upload from their IEP system, a district needs to determine their own deadline at which time their final upload is submitted. Once that final upload has been completed, any additional test settings will need to be done directly in TIDE.

#### Large Print or Braille for the NGSS Assessment Field Test

All request for large print or braille booklets for the *NGSS Assessment Field Test* **MUST** be ordered directly from AIR by calling 1-844-202-7583. These students must also have these accommodations indicated on their test settings in TIDE.



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**Special Populations Updates**

**Training for Teachers Administering the NGSS Alternate Assessment Field Test in Grades 5, 8, and 11**

An e-mail was sent on March 5, 2018, to Trained Teachers Administering the Alternate Assessments (TEAs) regarding the upcoming 2017-18 NGSS Alternate Assessment Field Test in Grades 5, 8, and 11. Trained Teachers who have students eligible for the alternate assessment in these grades **must** participate in the new online Connecticut Alternate Science Test (CTAS) Training available in Schoology. This training module will be available on Schoology until April 25, 2018. Please take a moment to review the procedures to complete this training:

**Procedure to take the CTAS Training:**

- A. If you took the 2017-18 CSDE Alternate Assessment System Training, you may access training through your Schoology account.
- [Log in to Schoology](#)
  - Provide your username and password
  - ONLY review the PowerPoint in the folder labeled ***“The Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS)”***
  - Take the quiz for this PowerPoint (you may take it as often as needed to receive a minimum of 80 percent)
  - You will **NOT** receive notification indicating that you completed the CTAS Training, however your participation will be determined by your submitted quiz.
- B. If you did not take the 2017-18 CSDE Alternate Assessment System Training, you may access training through your Schoology account.
- Register for the [2017-18 CSDE Alternate Assessment System Training](#) on the SERC Web site
  - You may choose to take the entire course, which includes the CTAA **and** the new CTAS, or **ONLY** review the PowerPoint in the folder labeled ***“The Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS)”***
  - Take the quiz for this PowerPoint (you may take it as often as needed to receive a minimum of 80 percent)
  - You will **NOT** receive notification indicating that you completed the Alternate Assessment System Training or the CTAS Training, however, your participation will be determined by your submitted quiz.

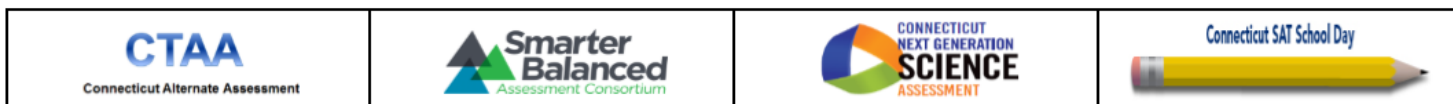
In addition to this training, more details about the administration of the CTAS Field Test were sent in the [March 16, 2018, memo](#) to District Administrators.

If you have any questions, contact the Student Assessment Office at 860-713-6860.

**Alternate Assessment Indicator**

The deadline to submit the Learner Characteristics Inventory (LCI) was March 16. The Alternate Assessment Indicator was set to “yes” in TIDE for those eligible students who had an LCI submitted by the March 16’ deadline. The Alternate Assessment Indicator allows eligible students to access the required alternate assessments.

If a student becomes eligible for the alternate assessment after the March 16’ please contact the AIR Help Desk at 844-202-7583 and provide the SASID for the student and confirmation that the LCI has been submitted so that the Alternate Assessment Indicator can be set to “yes.”



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**Special Populations Updates**

**Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment Resources**

On March 16, all Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS) materials were released to the Connecticut Public Schools. The materials are located on the [Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Portal](#).

**Additional Guidance for the Early Stopping Rule for the CTAA and the CTAS**

The CTAA and CTAS administration windows overlap so trained teachers (TEAs) may administer these alternate assessments in either order in accordance with the test directions and test windows. If a student is in Grade 5, 8 or 11, prior to calling the CSDE to discuss the Early Stopping Rule (ESR) for the CTAA, the TEA should begin the activities associated with the CTAS. If when participating in the CTAS, the student shows no observable response on the student response check (SRC) **and** no observable response (NR) for the first activity in the first storyline (Form 1: Earth Science Activity 1 or Form 2 Earth Science Activity 1), then the TEA should call the CSDE **before** continuing the CTAS. This step would also occur **before** the TEA enters the DEI for the CTAS. The TEAs administering both the CTAA and CTAS may make one phone call to the Student Assessment Office if the student is being considered for the ESR for both the CTAA and the CTAS. Please refer to the [Guidance About Students Who Qualify For the Connecticut Alternate Assessment Early Stopping Rule](#) and the [Guidance About Students Who Qualify for the Connecticut Alternate Science Early Stopping Rule](#).

**Smarter Balanced, NGSS Field Test and CTAS Field Test Parent Letters**

The [2018 parent letter](#) for students taking the Smarter Balanced test and/or NGSS Field Test is available for districts. The letter can be modified to suit the needs of the district. A [2018 parent letter](#) is also available for parents of students taking the CTAA or CTAS.



**Interim Assessment Webinars**

[Three webinars](#) designed to support the implementation and scoring of the Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs), as well as the use of student results to inform classroom instruction, are currently available.

**Want to find recent announcements regarding Connecticut's assessments?  
Please visit the CSDE's [Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal](#). You will  
find information about each assessment, as well as technology resources  
and information for students and families.**

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

**Smarter  
Balanced**  
Assessment Consortium

CONNECTICUT  
NEXT GENERATION  
**SCIENCE**  
ASSESSMENT

Connecticut SAT School Day

