CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

October 12, 2018

NEW Overview of the Next Generation Science Assessments

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

- NEW **Connecticut SAT School Day Updates**
- NEW **Digital Library Updated Playlists**
- NEW **Special Populations Updates**
- **Science Interim Assessment**
- **Summative Assessment Calendar for 2018-19**
- **Register for E-mail Updates**

A new resource has been developed that provides an overview of the standard Next Generation Science Assessment (NGSS). Information such as the test design, item types, estimated time, and 2019 testing schedule is included. A sample item cluster for Grade 5, as well as key features and tools available for the online NGSS assessments are also highlighted. This overview is appropriate to copy and share with fellow educators and parents. A separate overview of the Connecticut Alternate Assessment in Science (CTAS) will be coming in the near future.

NEW Focused IAB Survey

Smarter Balanced is in the process of designing Focused Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs) and is in need of educator input to clarify the most critical skills needed to improve student and class performance in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. Each survey takes 30-60 minutes to complete per grade level, however educators can complete more than one grade-level survey if they choose. Connecticut educators are encouraged to complete a math survey or ELA survey to support this important step in the development Focused IABs. The input received will assist Smarter Balanced in identifying the content to emphasize within the target(s) of a particular Focused IAB.

The deadline for completion of the survey is **Thursday, October 25, 2018.**

NEW Practice Tests Available

The following practice tests are available:

Smarter Balanced Practice and Training Tests

Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) Practice Tests

Next Generation Science Standards Sample Items

SAT Practice Tests and SAT Practice on Khan Academy

CTAA
Connecticut Alternate Assessment

Smarter Balanced
Assessment Consortium

CONNECTICUT NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE ASSESSMENT

Connecticut SAT School Day

NEW Connecticut SAT School Day Updates

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities and Section 504

The dates to submit accommodations for students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan for the 2019 Connecticut SAT School Day will be from 12/5/18 to 2/5/19. Accommodations must be submitted through the College Board's Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Online system. More information will be shared soon about how to apply for extended time for English learners (EL) students.

New for 2019 Connecticut SAT School Day—Accommodated Window Testing

For the 2019 test, students testing with approved accommodations who previously tested within the two-day window will now be allowed to test within a two-week accommodated window. The additional days are provided to offer flexibility when testing students with eligible accommodations. Schools can still elect to test all students beginning on the primary test date or schedule testing across the window to manage space and/or room constraints.

Students who are approved for accommodations will fall into these groups, as indicated on the Non-Standard Administration Report (NAR) available in SSD Online:

- Those who will use standard (purple) testing materials must test on the primary School Day test date (either March 27 or April 9, as selected by your school).
- Those who will use accommodated (blue) testing materials may test on any day during the accommodated testing window.

Planning for Accommodated Testing

Connecticut SAT test coordinators should flexibly schedule students within the window based on availability of classrooms and staff to administer the SAT to students.

- All accommodated students eligible to test within the accommodated testing window should be tested as early in the window as possible.
- Meet with your staff to determine when to start testing students eligible to test in the accommodated window. If possible, start testing these students on the primary test date.
- For accommodations that don't require multiple days, student testing must be completed on one of the days during the window.
- 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.
- Students using blue test books who are absent on test day should test later in the accommodated testing window using the same testing materials. If you have accommodated students testing within the window who require a makeup because of an irregularity, contact the SSD office.
- Once you have sent in any testing materials from the primary test date, hold all other accommodated testing window materials until all accommodated testing is complete.

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

NEW Connecticut SAT School Day Updates (Continued)

Materials for the 2019 Test

Schools do **NOT** need to order any test materials for students for the Connecticut SAT School Day. Test materials, including student labels, will automatically be sent to each Test Center Supervisor prior to the March 27, 2019, or April 9, 2019, test. Quantities of materials will be based on enrollments in the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE's) Public School Information System (PSIS) Registration Module, as well as special materials for students approved for accommodations through the College Board's SSD system.

2019 Connecticut SAT School Day Updates and Accommodations Overview Webex

A Webex regarding the Connecticut SAT School Day new enhancements for 2019 and accommodations for special populations is scheduled for **November 1, 2018, from 2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m**. Please register in advance for this Webex. This presentation by CSDE and College Board staff will provide an overview of enhancements coming in 2019, as well as information on determining what accommodations are available for qualifying students, and how to make sure they will be available at the time of testing. The webinar is intended for school test coordinators and district administrators who oversee the Connecticut SAT School Day.

Updates to Test Coordinator or School Information

Thank you for completing the Connecticut SAT School Day survey. Moving forward if you have a change in test coordinator or mailing address for your school, please report these changes to Michelle Rosado. It is important for the CSDE and College Board to have an accurate list of test coordinators and school addresses for test administration.

NEW Digital Library Playlists Updated

Updated Connections Playlists that are now available from the Digital Library (login required). A flier provides information regarding all the updated playlists.

The State Network of Educators (SNEs) reviewed the Connections Playlists at the 2018 Summer Workshop to identify resource gaps and better align the playlists with instructional next steps for students. These revised playlists have been updated in the Digital Library. Please note that the URLs for the updated Connections Playlists have not changed.

Register for your free Digital Library Account at www.sbdigitallibrary.org

NEW **Special Populations Updates**

2018-19 Assessment Guidelines

The Assessment Guidelines revised for school year 2018-19 is now available on our Web site. This document provides guidance for Connecticut school district personnel who must make decisions about testing special student populations on Connecticut's Assessment Programs, including Smarter Balanced, the Connecticut Alternate Assessment System (Connecticut Alternate (CTAA) and Connecticut Alternate Science Assessments) and NGSS Standard Assessment. While these guidelines include information related to accommodations for students with active IEPs and Section 504 Plans, it also describes the embedded universal tools and embedded/non-embedded designated supports available to all students with a need determined by educators. Please share this valuable resource with your colleagues and teachers, especially those working with students with disabilities and English learners, as they are preparing for the upcoming test administration.

Special Documented Accommodation Requests for Students with IEPs or 504 Plans

The Bureau of Student Assessment is already receiving requests for special documented accommodations for the 2018-19 summative assessments. Some requests include accommodations such as scribe, the Read Aloud of the ELA Reading Passages, and a Human Signer for Math and ELA. For exceptional circumstances in which the needs of the student cannot be met with the standard accommodations listed in the Assessment Guidelines, requests can be made by the District Administrator (DA) in the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) to the CSDE. Please review the procedures and discuss them in advance with your teachers:

◊ Teachers should make a request for special documented accommodations to the DA, as soon as it's determined that a student may need one of these types of accommodations to access the summative assessments. These accommodations should already be provided to the student in the instructional setting. Teachers should provide DAs with the student SASID, grade, assessment name, type of special accommodation, and rationale for the request.

Special Documented Accommodation Deadline	Assessment
December 10, 2018	Science (Grade 11) CT SAT School Day
January 28, 2019	Smarter Balanced (Grades 3-8) Science (Grades 5 & 8) and Alternate Assessments

◊ The DA should contact the CSDE (see contact information below) to make an initial request for the accommodation at which point it will be determined if the student may require or meet criteria for qualification for a special documented accommodation.

◊ If initial approval is granted, the CSDE will provide the DA with the Special Documented Accommodations Petition form for completion by the teacher which also requires signatures from the teacher, DA, and Director of Special Education.

◊ Once the petition is completed and includes sufficient evidence for request (i.e., enclose a copy of IEP form), the DA will return the form to the CSDE for processing and approval. The DA will receive a letter of approval (or denial), along with ancillary documents for the teacher to review prior to administration (if applicable). Incomplete petitions **WILL NOT** be processed.

◊ Special documented accommodation requests should be made as early as possible to ensure sufficient time for processing. Without approval, students may not be administered assessments with the requested special accommodations during testing.

Special Documented Accommodation Petitions sent after these dates may require additional time for processing. Until approved by the CSDE, administering these tests with special documented accommodations are prohibited. For questions, contact Deirdre Ducharme or Janet Stuck.

Special Populations Updates (Continued)

Updates about the Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment

Following the Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS) Field Test in the spring of 2018 the CSDE reviewed the data, as well as the embedded teacher feedback that was submitted by Connecticut Teachers Administering the Alternate (TEAs). With committee support, the CSDE made some minor changes at each grade.

For the 2018-19 school year and subsequent years, the CTAS should be administered to eligible Grade 5, 8 and 11 students throughout the school year. The TEAs should review the CTAS Performance Tasks and materials to determine instructional times to incorporate these activities. They may be integrated across curriculum themes if more appropriate for the student. The TEAs should plan and schedule when the Performance Tasks will be administered to ensure timely submission for scoring.

Students eligible for the CTAA who are in Grades 5, 8, or 11 are also expected to participate in the CTAS. Trained TEAs will administer both the CTAA and the CTAS to eligible students. The 2018-19 CTAS upload window through the Data Entry Interface (DEI) is scheduled from March 25-June 7, 2019.

CTAS Materials

The new and revised CTAS materials will be posted as PDFs on the CSDE Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal in early November 2018. Hard copies will be shipped (including printed storylines, color resources and scoresheets) by early November to DAs listed in TIDE, including those at Approved Private Special Education Programs. It is important that upon receipt of these materials, districts create a system to share materials across the district and store them for future use. Districts should destroy any materials they may have saved from the spring 2018 CTAS Field Test.

Required Alternate Assessment System Training Revised Policy

The required Alternate Assessment System Training will be accessible online via the CSDE Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal. This training will be made available in November. **All certified educators who will be administering the alternate assessments, <u>regardless of previous training status,</u> will need to participate in the 2018-19 training and each year thereafter.** The TEAs will be certified to administer the CTAA and the CTAS after completing the *Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Training-Required for Teachers Administering the Alternate* modules and passing the associated quiz with a score of at least 80 percent. District Administrators in TIDE will be notified via the Student Assessment News when this required training is available.

URL for White Listing

To ensure appropriate communication regarding topics related o English learners please ensure the following URLs are "white listed" in your district. This will allow appropriate communications, especially for the LAS Links to be received and accessed rather than blocked by district security filters.

Program	URLs	Port/Protocol
LAS Links	https://drc-centraloffice.com https://ll-insight-client.drcedirect.com https://ll-insight.drcedirect.com https://ll.drcedirect.com https://www.drcedirect.com https://wbte.drcedirect.com https://dtk.drcedirect.com https://api-gateway-cloud.drcedirect.com https://api-gateway.drcedirect.com https://cdn-content-prod.drcedirect.com https://cdn-download-prod.drcedirect.com https://east-1-drc-wbte-prod-ll.s3.amazonaws.com/	80/http 443/https (applies to all of the URLs)

NEW	**Special Populations Updates (Continued)**

The Learner Characteristics Inventory and Submission Deadlines

An updated version of the Learner Characteristics Inventory (LCI) has been released and is available for teacher access. The LCI will be used by TEAs to describe the population of students who are assessed with the Connecticut Alternate Assessments (the CTAA for ELA and Math, and CTAS for Science). These students comprise less than 1 percent of the total tested student population and are students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. The LCI is required to support the determination of the appropriate assessment at the planning and placement team (PPT) meeting and must be submitted in the DEI in order to register a student for participation in either alternate assessment (CTAA or CTAS).

The Learner Characteristics Inventory (LCI) is a document used to describe the characteristics of students participating in the Alternate Assessment System. Teachers Administering the Alternate Assessments (CTAA and CTAS) use the Completion Procedures for the Learner Characteristics Inventory (LCI) at the PPT with supporting evidence to determine eligibility for the Alternate Assessments. If a student is determined eligible, the TEA submits the LCI into the DEI on the CSDE Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal.

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

LCI Deadline	Grade(s)	Student Populations by Assessment Window
December 21, 2018	Grades 3-8, 11	English learners who are dually identified and eligible for the CTAA/CTAS; Support state collections for participation in LAS Links
January 18, 2019	Grade 11	Supporting state collections for Connecticut SAT School Day, Science, and CTAA/CTAS
February 1, 2019	Grades 3-8, 11	Supporting state collections for Smarter Balanced, Science (Grades 5 & 8), and CTAA/CTAS

Prior to each testing window, LCI data is retrieved from the DEI and an ALT Flag indicator in TIDE is activated giving the student access to the CTAA at the time of testing. If an LCI is submitted after the indicated deadline, additional steps may be required by the TEA and DA to ensure that the student has access to the appropriate assessments. Given that PPTs occur throughout the school year, the DEI will remain open during the testing window through May 31, 2019. However, it is highly recommended that any LCI approved at a PPT be entered into the DEI immediately following the PPT in advance of the testing window.
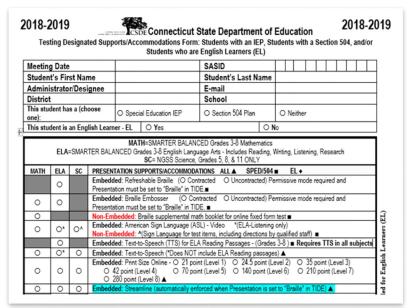
CTAA
Connecticut Alternate Assessment

Smarter Balanced
Assessment Consortium

CONNECTICUT NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE ASSESSMENT

Connecticut SAT School Day

NEW Special Populations Updates (Continued)

2018-19 Testing Designated Supports and Accommodations Form

The updated 2018-19 Testing Designated Supports/ Accommodations Form: Students with an IEP, Students with a Section 504, and/or Students who are English Learners (EL) is available both on the Student Assessment webpage and the Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal.

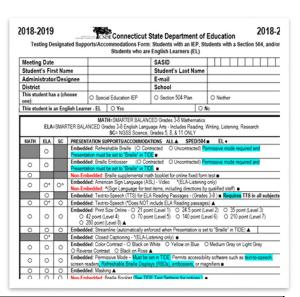There are **two** specific changes reflected in this updated form:

- Streamline, once an embedded accommodation, is now a designated support available to **ANY** student with a need determined by educators. This feature allows any text on a screen to be presented without a split screen. Items are presented sequentially below the stimuli. The streamline must be activated in the TIDE Test Settings.

- Burmese is now included as a language choice for the embedded and non-embedded translation glossary and the non-embedded translation test directions. It also must be activated in the TIDE Test Settings.

Additionally, the 2018-19 form provides clarification related to specific accommodations requiring use of the *Permissive Mode* (see Embedded Refreshable Braille, Braille Embosser, and Permissive Mode) and the *activation of specific TIDE settings* (see Refreshable Braille, Braille Embosser and Streamline).

Also note that the *non-embedded specialized calculator* is now available on the NGSS Assessment. This non-embedded calculator is for students requiring a specialized calculator, such as a braille calculator or a talking calculator, as described in their IEP or Section 504 Plan.

Science Interim Assessment

A new Interim Assessment for NGSS will be available in late October 2018. Instructions on how to access the test, as well as other information about using the Science Interim will be shared soon. A Webex is being planned to inform districts about this new assessment. Contact Jeff Greig with any questions.

Student Assessment Contacts

Cristi Alberino	Smarter Balanced and Interim Assessment	Deirdre Ducharme	Alternate and Interim Assessments
Jeff Greig	NGSS	Michelle Rosado	Connecticut SAT School Day
Janet Stuck	Alternate and EL Assessments	CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov	All other questions

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Assessment Calendar

Event	Dates
The AIR secure browsers for the 2018-19 school year must be downloaded for all 2018-19 online tests	**Currently available**
English Language Proficiency LAS Links	January 2–March 8, 2019
Connecticut SAT School Day	Primary Test Dates: March 27, 2019, or April 9, 2019 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	March 25–June 7, 2019
Connecticut Smarter Balanced	March 25–June 7, 2019
Connecticut Alternate Assessment - CTAA	March 25–June 7, 2019

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.

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