



Student Assessment News

Connecticut State Department of Education • Performance Office

March 4, 2020

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)
CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov

2021-22 State Summative Assessment Calendar

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Performance Matters Forum

October 22, 2020

A [memorandum](#) was sent to Superintendents on February 26, 2020, regarding the State Summative Assessment Calendar for Connecticut public schools for the 2020-21 school year. The memo also details the plans to move the administration of the Connecticut SAT School Day from a paper and pencil test to a digital administration in school year 2021-22.

Data Analysis and Report Tools Resource

The [CSDE Performance Office Data Analysis and Reporting Tools document](#) is now available. This resource outlines the various summative assessment reporting applications along with the important features and access information of the systems.

Thank you to the Connecticut educators who participated in Smarter Balanced's State Network of Educators meeting in San Diego in February! These educators are

developing content for the [Tools for Teachers](#) web site launching in June 2020. Tools for Teachers will be replacing the Digital Library.

More information about Tools for Teachers can be found on the

[Smarter Balanced web site](#).



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Connecticut SAT School Day Updates

Test Coordinator Workshop Materials

Thank you to those who attended the recent test coordinator workshops. Slides from the workshop have been posted to the [CSDE's CT SAT School Day Website](#). A shortened version of this training is also available as well as proctor training and hall/room monitor training. Please feel free to use these resources for any staff training you may be conducting.

Sending Scores

Students who take the Connecticut SAT School Day in 2020 receive four free score sends. Students will enter the college codes for the free score sends on their answer sheet prior to or after testing. Many free score sends go unused by Connecticut students. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has created two flyers, [Sending Your Scores](#), to encourage using the free score sends for Connecticut's public colleges and universities, as well as a flyer for Connecticut's private colleges and universities. Schools may post these flyers and/or use it during testing. Schools are encouraged, but not required to use this resource.

Test Coordinator Survey

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

Translated Test Directions for 2020 Administration

Translated test directions for the 2020 Connecticut SAT School Day have been posted to the CSDE [Web site](#). The directions are available in 14 languages: French, 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.

Materials Shipments	March 25 test day	April 14 test day
Coordinator Planning Kit	2/10/20-2/14/20	2/10/20-2/14/20
Pre-ID Materials	3/3/20-3/5/20	3/24/20-3/26/20
Test Materials	3/17/20-3/19/20	3/31/20-4/2/20

2020 Connecticut SAT School Day Score Release Schedule		
Primary Admin	Student Score Release	K12 Educator Score Release
3/25/2020	Beg. 4/16/2020	Beg. 04/20/2020
4/14/2020	Beg. 5/6/2020	Beg. 05/08/2020
4/28 or 29/2020	Beg. 5/20/2020	Beg. 05/22/2020

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Smarter Balanced Educator Recruitment

The CSDE and Smarter Balanced are seeking educators who meet all the qualifications outlined below to participate in, in-person content development activities beginning in summer 2020.

Educators must meet the following qualifications in order to apply:

- currently certified to teach ELA/literacy or mathematics in a K – 12 public school or certified to teach English learners and/or students with disabilities;
- currently teaching in a public school or currently employed by a public school, district or state education entity, including higher education located in Connecticut; and
- within the past three years:
 - ◇ have taught ELA/literacy or mathematics in Grades 3 through 8 *or* have worked in a classroom content support role such as a literacy or district-content specialist.

AND/OR

- ◇ Have taught students with disabilities and/or English learners in Grades 3 through 8 *or* have worked in a support role such as a district/school coordinator or instructional specialist. Specializations in visual impairments or teaching students who are deaf and hard of hearing are encouraged.
- have previously reviewed part or all of the Common Core State Standards for the content area in which they are interested in working.
- for item writing, all educators must submit a statement of interest upon request that describes (a) the reason(s) for their interest in developing items for the Smarter Balanced assessment system and (b) their qualifications for doing so.

Educators who have documented expertise in the areas of science and/or social science may apply for ELA/literacy item review. Some activities will have additional preferred experience qualifications.

The Smarter Balanced item development process involves educators, researchers, policymakers, and community groups in a transparent consensus-driven process to help all students succeed in a global economy. The 2020 item development meetings will be:

- **Math Item Review and Item Author Training: Week of July 20**
- **ELA Item Review and Item Author Training: Week of August 3**
- **ELA and Math Item Review: Week of October 26**
- **Rangefinding: Week of July 6**

All interested candidates, **including candidates that have previously applied**, must apply by submitting the [online application form](#) to Smarter Balanced by **April 20, 2020**.

Smarter Balanced will contact selected educators **directly** via e-mail. The selected educators will need to complete additional travel and contract information. Lodging, travel costs, and applicable reimbursements will be provided by Smarter Balanced following the meeting, and may include substitute reimbursement.

Please contact Michelle Rosado at the CSDE by [e-mail](#) if you have any questions.

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Advanced Placement Updates

The CSDE and College Board will cover the entire cost of the May 2020 Advanced Placement (AP) exam fees for all students from low-income families who attend public school in Connecticut. AP Coordinators should make sure to indicate which students are from low-income families on the AP invoice; the CSDE will be billed directly for the tests taken by those students. Districts implementing the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) should not report all students as being from low-income families but should use eligibility status found in the PSIS Registration Module.

For your AP invoice to accurately reflect any fee reductions, you must indicate “Reduced” in the AP Fee Status column of your student roster in AP Registration and Ordering for each student who qualifies for a fee reduction. The deadline to indicate fee reduction status is **April 30, 2020**. See the [2019-20 AP Coordinator's Manual, Part 1](#) for details about the AP fee reduction policy (pages 24–27) and how to indicate student fee reduction status (page 86).

The Performance Office and the Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education have worked together provide guidance to AP coordinators around the requirement for sharing eligibility status for the purpose of AP testing. The National School Lunch Act (NSLA) allows persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of certain programs or activities to have limited access to student’s eligibility status. The NSLA specifically allows for the sharing of *eligibility status only* for use in *State education programs administered by a State agency or LEA* such as Advanced Placement. Eligibility status means that only the designation (free or reduced-price) can be shared and not the source of the determination of eligibility (SNAP, TFA, Medicaid, etc). A student’s eligibility status may be shared only with the AP coordinator for a one-time use for this specific purpose and must not be shared with other personnel, used for any other purpose, or maintained in the academic database for future use.

Please share this email with your district’s child nutrition/food service director. Note that you may be asked to complete a *Disclosure Release Form*, which is normal protocol when a person requests access to a student’s free and reduced-price eligibility status. If your district’s child nutrition/food service director has questions on whether or not they should share the eligibility status with the AP coordinator, please contact Shannon Yearwood at Shannon.yearwood@ct.gov or 860-807-2050.

Office Hours Webinars Focusing on Special Populations, Accessibility, and Accommodations

The Performance Office will be conducting one additional **Special Populations Focused Office Hours webinar** prior to the opening of the testing window. Attendees must register in advance. These Focused Office Hours are appropriate for district and school personnel working with general education students requiring designated supports, students identified as English learners, special education or those with Section 504 plans.

March 11, 2020, 3 to 4 p.m.

Medical Exemptions, Early Stopping Rule, Appeals

A recorded version of the webinars held on Wednesday, [January 29, 2020](#), and [February 27, 2020](#) are available. These webinars covered the Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form, Speech-to-Text, and Special Documented Accommodations (January 29) and Portal Resources/Designated Support and Accommodations (February 27).



Connecticut Alternate Assessment



Special Populations Updates

Preparing for Testing for Students Using Large Print/Braille

District Administrators should submit their orders for large print and braille test booklets in TIDE as soon as possible. Step-by-step direction for ordering test materials are specified on Page 54 of the [TIDE User Guide](#).

Connecticut Assistive Technology Manual

[The Connecticut Assistive Technology Manual](#) is a new resource available on the [Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal](#). The manual provides detailed information on embedded and non-embedded assistive technology tools that can be used to help students with specific accessibility needs complete online tests in the TDS.

Secure Test Materials for CTAA Math and English Language Arts

On March 6, 2020, District Administrators and TEAs will have access to the Directions for Test Administration (DTAs) for downloading and printing. These materials will be available in TIDE using the Secure Test Materials drop down menu. Keep in mind that these materials are secure and should be stored in a secure place when not in use.

Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form Deadline

The deadline to submit Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Forms through the Data Entry Interface was **February 14, 2020**. Late submissions will be accepted for new students, or those students who are eligible based on PPT determinations that take place after this deadline. However, following this submission, contact the AIR Help Desk at 844-202-7583 to activate the Alt Flag Indicator in the student's TIDE account. Without this activation, students will only have access to the standard assessments.

LAS Links Writing and Speaking Test Use of Scratch Paper

For the LAS Links Writing and Speaking test, the DRC system currently provides access to a "sticky note" embedded in the system for the purpose of note taking. However, if students are more comfortable accessing scratch paper during the LAS Links Assessment because they use it during other classroom assessments, students may use scratch paper in lieu of the "sticky note." It is the student's responsibility to enter responses without any prompting. Any student notes and materials must be securely destroyed immediately following each testing session.

Accessing Test Materials for the CTAA and the CTAS Assessment

Required test materials for the CTAA for mathematics and English language arts will be available in the Secure Materials folder in TIDE on **March 6, 2020**. These materials can be accessed and downloaded in TIDE by DAs and TEAs only and include grade and specific Directions for Test Administration (DTAs). This means that a grade-specific math and English language arts DTA must be printed and used by the TEA at the time of test administration for a given student. During the test window of March 23-June 5, 2020, TEAs can also print grade-specific secure CTAA test booklets from the Secure Materials tab for those students who may require the use of a paper/pencil format. [The CTAA Test Administration Manual](#) is posted to the portal and should be used by the TEA in conjunction with the Directions for Test Administration at the time of testing. CTAS materials (administered to eligible students in Grades 5, 8, and 11) are available in hard copy at the local level. [Electronic PDFs](#), including the [CTAS Test Administration Manual](#) are also available for download and printing from the portal. This assessment is administered over the course of the school year, however TEAs must submit the Student Score Worksheets through the DEI between March 23, and June 5, 2020.

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Special Populations Updates

LAS Links Testing Window Closing

The 2020 LAS Links testing window closes on Friday, **March 6, 2020**. Please continue working to ensure all identified English Learners have completed all testing by this date. Any new students identified for domain exemptions or alternate assessments should be reported as described in the English Learner Assessment Coordinator training by March 6, 2020. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the Performance Office at 860-713-6860 or ctstudentassessment@ct.gov.

Reminders about Text-to-Speech of Test Items VS. ELA Reading Passages

Generally speaking, the designated support of text-to-speech for test items in ELA and stimuli and items in math and science is available to all students for whom a team of educators has determined its appropriateness. The embedded text-to-speech may be needed for those students who use text-to-speech to access instruction in the classroom.

However, special considerations must be made when determining if the text-to-speech of the ELA reading passages 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. 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 text-to-speech of the reading passages may be appropriate and provide the most appropriate access to content for the student to demonstrate their abilities. Teachers and Planning and Placement Teams (PPTs) should refer to the [Guidelines for Choosing Text-to-Speech or Read Aloud for Smarter Balanced ELA Reading Passages](#) and 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 the Decision Guidelines is "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](#).

Please reference the **Testing Students in PSIS Who Attend Out-of-State and Non-Approved Facilities** [brochure](#) to prepare for test administration for those students who are educated in out-of-state facilities or in-state, non-approved schools. If you have a student who is considered "generic-in-state," please contact the Performance office as soon as possible so that we can discuss testing options and procedures for this small subset of students.

Student Summary Report Webinar

The Student Summary Report is now available on EdSight Secure! A webinar to introduce Student Summary on EdSight Secure has been scheduled for **March 17, 2020, from 2 - 3 PM**. This webinar will explore the newest report on EdSight Secure - Student Summary. Student Summary is a cross-domain, longitudinal report for an individual student that is printable and exportable. Please join the staff of the Performance Office to learn about the features of this report and how to access it. You must [register](#) in advance for this webinar.

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Student Assessment 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		

2019-20 Summative Assessment Calendar

The AIR secure browsers for the 2019-20 school year must be downloaded for all 2019-20 online tests.	Currently available
LAS Links	January 2, 2020–March 6, 2020
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.

