



Student Assessment News

Connecticut State Department of Education • Performance Office

May 14, 2020

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

LAS Links Assessment Results Released

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On April 22, 2020, the LAS Links Assessment Results were made available to districts. Each English Learner Assessment Coordinator received an email with information about accessing these preliminary results on the Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) Insight Portal in the Interactive Reports application. These results are called preliminary because the results considered final for the 2020 testing year will be uploaded to EdSight late this spring. Results districts have available now may be used to inform parents about Las Links results. When informing parents, districts may choose to use the Home Report available in both English and Spanish. Additionally these resources about the Interactive Reporting Application are available:

[LAS Links Interactive Reports User Guide](#) -This resource includes many screenshots and descriptions -- note, you can click the home button in the top left if you want to return to the main page.

[LAS Links Interactive Reports Training Modules](#) -This resource includes an animated video with report samples.

A **LAS Links Interactive Reports Webinar** has been scheduled for **May 19, 2020, at 11a.m.** Please [register](#) in advance. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. This webinar will review all 10 report types available in the new LAS Links Interactive Reports system. This system was opened for the first time in April to facilitate the release of the 2020 LAS Links testing data.

Fall 2020 SAT

In light of the cancellation of all state summative assessments for the 2019-20 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, current Grade 11 students could unfortunately not take the Connecticut SAT School Day in March/April 2020. However, to ensure that these students have access to an SAT exam at no-cost to them, the CSDE has made arrangements with the College Board so ONLY current Grade 11 students (Grade 12 in fall 2020) can take the SAT in fall 2020, either during a weekend or a school day administration. This weekend or fall SAT School Day would be an *optional* test for students. There are no state requirements for having students take this test. **This is not a rescheduling of the Connecticut SAT School Day.**

A webinar was held on May 4, 2020, to provide details around this opportunity for students. Copies of the slides, a recorded version of the webinar, and a [Question and Answer document](#) is available on the Connecticut SAT School Day web page: <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Student-Assessment/SAT/Connecticut-SAT-School-Day/Related-Resources>. Please contact [Michelle Rosado](#) if you have any questions.



Connecticut Alternate Assessment



Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment



Connecticut SAT School Day



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Interim Assessments

On April 24, 2020, staff from the Performance Office offered a webinar on administering Interim Assessments remotely and the new Smarter Balanced Tools for Teachers Remote Learning resource page. A [recorded version](#) and copies of [the slides](#) are available, as well as other new resources developed to support the use of Interim Assessments remotely. Please contact [Cristi Alberino](#) if you have any questions.

[Quick Guide to Administering Interim Assessments](#)

[Supporting Distance Learning Using the Interim Assessments](#)

[Smarter Balanced Remote Learning Web Site](#)

Social Studies and Agriculture Distance Learning Webinars

[Register for Teaching Social Studies in a Period of Change](#) on May 18, 2020, from 2:00–3:30. This live webinar includes curriculum leaders and educators that will discuss innovative ways to teach social studies at the elementary school, middle school, and high school levels during this unique period in our history.

[Register for Strategies for Effective Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Online Instruction](#) on May 21, 2020, from 2:00-3:30. This live webinar will showcase how Ledyard High School and Shepaug School have been providing rigorous and meaningful lessons in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources during these extraordinary times.

Lt. Governor's COVID-19 Computing Challenge

The Lt. Governor's COVID-19 Computing Challenge <https://www.skills21.org/ltgovcovid-19challenge> is an opportunity for students to utilize their creativity to design computer technology without needing to know how to code. As we continue to work to broaden participation in computer science across Connecticut this challenge brings positivity during a difficult time. Please share this with your students and families.

The Three R's of Learning from Home: Tips for Stressed-out Families (VIDEO):

As many parents reach their saturation point, these tips on Routines, Relationships and Reassurances will help. You will hear from students, teachers, and parents. <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/COVID19/Professional-Support-Series-for-Families/Social-and-Emotional-Support/The-Three-Rs-of-Learning-from-Home---Tips-for-Stressed-out-Families>.

Like you, the Performance Office staff is working from home. We appreciate your continued effort to support Connecticut's students. Recognizing that you are managing previous and new expectations, as well as additional responsibilities we want to remind you that we are here to help. Please reach out by email to the [Performance Office staff](#). We also encourage you to visit the [CSDE's web site](#) for continually updated information for educators and families regarding COVID-19 updates and resources. Select the blue boxes for access to live and recorded webinar series for families and educators.



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AP Updates

The CSDE has received the following question from parents and wanted to share some guidance for districts.

Should Participation in Advanced Placement Exams be Required for Awarding High School Credit During COVID-19?

Per state law, decisions regarding course completion, grading, and credit issuance are ultimately the purview of the local school district. This includes the school's decision to require participation in the Advanced Placement (AP) exam to issue credit for an AP course. In light of the major disruptions caused by the pandemic, the CSDE has encouraged districts to be flexible with grading practices during this pandemic. Many students and teachers are working under less-than-ideal circumstances. In the [guidance issued on April 7, 2020](#), the CSDE suggested that districts adopt a pass/fail protocol for grading during the period of distance learning due to the pandemic, and calculate GPA based only on performance while students were attending in-school classes. The CSDE also worked closely with Connecticut public and private college and universities to have them accept these determinations on student transcripts for the graduating class of 2020. In recognition of this disruption, the College Board which administers the AP exam, has also offered cancellations of AP exams without penalty. All that said, if the district has an AP exam participation requirement to issue credit in the high school course, it could choose to waive that requirement for 2019-20.

Conversely, the district may feel that there are benefits for students to taking an AP exam even during this pandemic. It could serve as a good, culminating self-assessment for the student after having participated all year in a rigorous course. The exam can be a routine that persists at a time when most other routines have been disrupted. When talking with students/parents, please remind them that the content of the AP exam in 2020 will be limited to material that most AP teachers have covered until in-person classes were cancelled in mid-March. Share the [video by AP guru Trevor Packer](#), which speaks to this point. Also share that the College Board is offering a wide array of free preparatory videos, materials, and live review lessons on the [AP website](#). Of course, achieving an acceptable score on an AP exam is a necessary pre-requisite to getting college credit which can shave off some college tuition as well.

Internet Safety Webinars for Parents and Students

In today's ever growing technological world, new trends and programs are developed to improve our lives. With this constant surge of new information and programs available, communication and the world is a click or text away. But with all these new advances, especially during this challenging time of distant learning and being online more than ever, come new concerns. Parents and students (age 12 and older) need to be aware of the technology their children are using and the trouble that can follow if safety rules are not in place.

Please join Scott Driscoll, president of Internet Safety Concepts LLC, on **Monday, May 18, at 10 a.m. (EST)** for **Internet Safety for Parents/Caregivers**, an online presentation to help empower smart online choices and safety. This program is for parents/caregivers and adults only. [Please register in advance.](#)

A session for students age 12 and older, **Internet Safety for Students (12 and older)** is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 19, at 2 p.m. (EST)**. [Please register in advance.](#)

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.

