



Student Assessment News

Connecticut State Department of Education • Performance Office

September 21, 2021

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

2020-21 Statewide Summative Assessment Results and LAS Links on EdSight Secure

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

Page 2
[Special Populations Updates](#)

Page 4
[Smarter Balanced and NGSS Interim Assessments](#)

Page 5
[CT SAT School Day Updates](#)

Page 6
[AP Updates](#)

[CT Physical Fitness Assessment](#)

Page 7
[2021-22 Assessment Calendar](#)

[COVID Resources for Educators and Families](#)



The CSDE released state assessment results to the public in early September. Please see the [Statewide Summative Assessments Results webpage](#) for information on public score reporting from the 2020-21 test administration.

Additionally the 2020-21 **LAS Links Achievement/Mastery report** is available on EdSight Secure. There are a few changes to the report as outlined below.

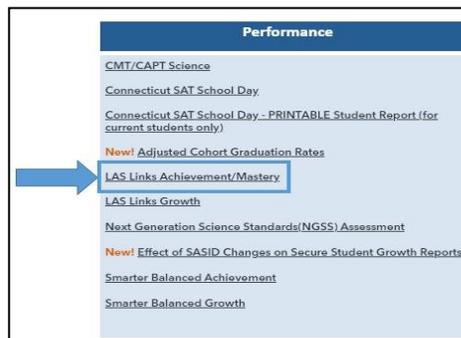
Report page:

- ◇ Users now have the ability to **view the chart disaggregated by student learning model** (Fully/Mostly In-Person, Fully/Mostly Remote, Hybrid). Select Student Learning Model from either the Filter By (1) or Filter By (2) dropdown. Please note that this variable is not available prior to the 2020-21 school year.
- ◇ Users now have the ability to **filter the data presented in the chart by student learning model**. Use the Student Learning Model (2020-21 only) filter located at the top of page to make selections of which student learning model (s) you would like to include in the chart.

Info Windows* and Student Level Data page:

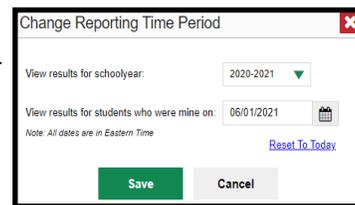
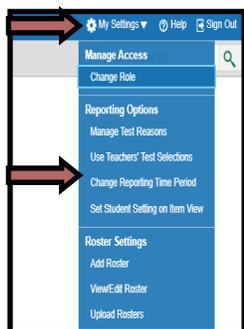
- ◇ Users will now **see Student Learning Model as a variable included in all list tables**. Please note that this variable will be blank for school years prior to 2020-21.

As a reminder, the LAS Links Achievement/Mastery report is accessible from the EdSight Secure homepage under the Performance heading.



The Centralized Reporting System

To view the spring 2021 Smarter Balanced, NGSS, and the Connecticut Alternate Assessments summative results from the secure Centralized Reporting System, select the My Settings drop-down menu from the top-right corner and choose the Change Reporting Time Period option. Set results to the 2020-21 school year and Save.



Connecticut Alternate Assessment



Connecticut
Alternate
Science
Assessment



Connecticut SAT School Day



Student Assessment News: September 21, 2021

Special Populations Updates

In an effort to get a head start on providing all students with the most appropriate tools and supports when participating on the optional Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments and upcoming spring summative assessments, refer to the updated 2021-22 [Accessibility Chart](#) and [Test Supports/ Accommodations Form](#) available on the Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal.

The Performance Office encourages teachers and test coordinators to plan early when determining the types of supports and accommodations their students may need. Refer to recent 504 Plans and Page 8 of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) to ensure that appropriate supports and accommodations are identified and submitted through the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) system after November 19, 2021.

For students who need additional accessibility to assessments, such as the use of text-to-speech or a Read Aloud of the Smarter Balanced English language arts (ELA) Reading Passages, refer to the [Connecticut Smarter Balanced and NGSS Reader Options Table](#) for a crosswalk of available designated supports and accommodations by subtest.

The table is titled "Universal Tools:" and is organized into four main columns: "Available to ALL students", "Designated Supports:", "Accommodations:", and "Available to students with an IEP or 504 Plan". Each column contains a list of specific tools and supports. The "Designated Supports:" column lists items like "Screen Reader" and "Text-to-Speech". The "Accommodations:" column lists items like "Extended Time" and "Read Aloud". The "Available to students with an IEP or 504 Plan" column lists items like "Large Print" and "Calculator". A note at the bottom states: "Refer to the Assessment Guidelines for detailed information on universal tools, supports, and accommodations." There are also footnotes: "* NOT Available for Science", "** Requires Trained Educator", and "*** Supported for English Learners".

Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Updates

The 2021-22 [Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form](#) and supplemental [annotated](#) form is available on the Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal and can be downloaded and completed at upcoming Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meetings for this school year to determine eligibility for Connecticut Alternate Assessments in math, English language arts, and science. The primary changes to the eligibility form now includes drop-down menus for selecting assessments used to measure cognitive and adaptive functioning skills. Refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions and Answers about the Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form](#) for more information.

The Data Entry Interface (DEI) will open on November 19, to allow trained Teachers Administering the Alternate Assessments (TEAs) to submit eligibility forms for test registration. The [Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Participation Guidance for Planning and Placement Teams flowchart](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions and Answers about the Connecticut Alternate Assessment System](#) is also available on the portal.

Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Training Course— Now Live

Teachers expecting to administer the Connecticut Alternate Assessments for math, ELA, and science must complete required, annual online training (now available on the [portal](#)). While TEAs are encouraged to complete this training early in the year, it must be completed prior to submitting the Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form (via the DEI) and prior to test administration. The online training also includes a quiz in which teachers must have a score of 80% or better. This will activate a *trained* TEA status in their TIDE account. Only TEAs with a trained TEA status in TIDE will have access to the secure alternate assessment systems and required materials necessary for test administration. For more information, refer to these resources:

[Connecticut Alternate Assessment Training Required for Teachers Administering the Alternate: Overview for Teachers Administering the Alternate](#)

[Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Training Required for Teachers Administering the Alternate: Overview for District Administrators](#)

Student Assessment News: September 21, 2021

Special Populations Updates

Updated Resources for 2021-22

- ◇ [Embedded and Non-Embedded Designated Supports for English Learners](#)
- ◇ [Translation Glossary](#) (for Math)
- ◇ [Guidelines for Choosing Text-to-Speech](#), the Decision Guidelines for Text-to-Speech of the Smarter Balanced ELA Reading Passages and other related resources
- ◇ [Smarter Balanced Braille Options](#)
- ◇ [Testing Students in PSIS Who Attend Out-of-State Facilities or In-State Non-Approved Facilities](#)

English Learner Updates

On September 7, 2021, the *Supporting English Learners During the 2021-22 School Year* memo was emailed to individuals on record as the English Learner Assessment Coordinator for each district. This memo may be accessed on the [Connecticut DRC LAS Links](#) web site under Communication Update. The memo includes critical dates for all ELACs.

On September 10, 2021, ELACs were notified that the **LAS Links Achievement/Mastery Report** in [EdSight Secure](#) has been updated to include SY 2020-21 results. This report includes district, school, and student level performance metrics such as scale score and performance level for the four subtests of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing and the five composites of Comprehension, Oral, Literacy, Productive and Overall. The LAS Links Achievement/Mastery Report also provides information on English Mastery Standard attainment that districts can use to determine which students will exit EL status in 2021-22.

Procedure to Update Assessment Contacts

User Roles	Procedure to Update
District Administrator (DA) in TIDE for Smarter Balanced, NGSS, CTAA, CTAS	Contact ctstudentassessment@ct.gov
English Learner Assessment Coordinator (ELAC)	Request the district's Contacts Manager Writer update the ELAC contact information.*
Information Technology (IT)T Coordinator for LAS LINKS	Contact LASLinksPM@DataRecognitionCorp.com
Connecticut SAT School Day Test Coordinator	Contact michelle.rosado@ct.gov

*Each local education agency (LEA) has one or more individuals with the Contacts Manager Writer role who can update contact information for any of the directories listed in Contacts Manager including ELAC. A list of individuals with the Contacts Manager Writer role is available [here](#).

Student Assessment News: September 21, 2021

Smarter Balanced and NGSS Interim Assessments

Did you know that the optional interim assessments are currently open and available to support teaching and learning? Are you interested in learning more about the Smarter Balanced or NGSS Interim Assessments? Are you considering using them to support instruction in the year ahead? If so, please refer to the updated [Interim Assessments: Smarter Balanced and Next Generation Science Standards](#) guide. There, you will learn about the new enhancements available for the 2021-22 school year, including new Focused Interim Assessment Blocks in ELA and mathematics. This guide answers questions about interim test format, remote and in-person administration, scoring, reporting, universal tools, designated supports and accommodations, and instructional resources available in the Centralized Reporting System and the Tools for Teachers. All resources in this document are hyperlinked and are the most relevant resources available in an annotated [Related Resources](#) web page available from the [Connecticut Interim Assessments: Smarter Balanced and Next Generation Science](#) web page.

Four brief videos were created by the CSDE to support educators in their understanding of the interim assessments, and in the integration of interim assessments into their curricula.

- [Smarter Balanced and NGSS Interim Assessments Overview \(PDF\)](#)
- [Smarter Balanced and NGSS Interim Assessment Content \(PDF\)](#)

- [Smarter Balanced and NGSS Interim Scoring and Reporting \(PDF\)](#)
- [Integrating Smarter Balanced and NGSS Interim Assessments into Practice \(PDF\)](#)

Three new videos that provide information about **Interim Connections Playlists** and the **Individual Student Assessment Accessibility Profile**. These videos can be used in trainings and conference presentations and may be shared with colleagues. Tools for Teachers (login required):

- Using Interim Connections Playlists
- Understanding the Individual Student Accessibility Assessment Profile
- Individual Student Assessment Accessibility Profile: A Tool to Support Students

As an important reminder, designated supports and accommodations must be set by the teacher in the Test Administration Interface prior to interim testing until TIDE opens on November 19, 2021, for the submission of supports and accommodations. Until then, refer to the [Manually Entering Designated Supports and Accommodations](#) brochure for details on this process.

For a complete list of related resources, visit the [Connecticut Interim Assessments: Smarter Balanced and Next Generation Science](#) webpage.

TIDE User Passwords Reset for 2021-22 and Secure Browser Update

All TIDE users should have received a system generated password reset email on August 25, 2021. This password reset is necessary in order to access TIDE for the 2021-22 school year. If you are a TIDE user and did not receive this email, please contact the Connecticut Help Desk at (844) 202-7583 or cthelpdesk@cambiumassessment.com with any questions. Additionally, the 2021-2022 Secure Browsers for Smarter Balanced, NGSS and CTAA are now available to download from the [Secure Browsers page](#). These browsers should be downloaded on every testing device used for students taking interim and summative assessments. Details are included on the Secure Browsers webpage on the [Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal](#).

Student Assessment News: September 21, 2021

Connecticut SAT School Day Updates

Establishment Survey

In order to prepare for the 2022 Connecticut SAT® School Day, [please complete this online survey](#) no later than **September 24, 2021**. Please have only one person from each school fill out the survey. A survey must be completed for each school or program in your district that has grade 11 students reported in PSIS. This is especially critical this year given that the test is digital.

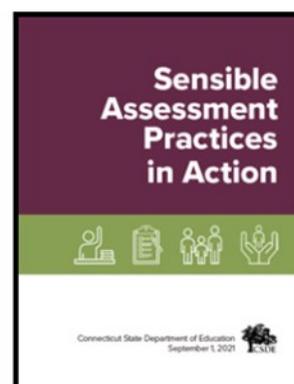
When completing the survey, you will need to designate a person in your school or program to fulfill each of the following roles:

1. **Test Coordinator:** Responsible for all aspects of administering the Connecticut SAT School Day at the school building, including setup, planning room and staffing, oversight of test day administration, and receiving/returning all test materials.
2. **Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Primary Coordinator:** Requests accommodations, works with the test coordinator and enters accommodations into the digital platform. Schools can have multiple SSD coordinators, but only one will be identified as the primary coordinator who will receive communications from the College Board.
3. **Principal:** Principal information is collected to facilitate communications and escalations.
4. **Technology Coordinator:** *New this year because of digital testing:* This staff person is responsible for the technology readiness and day-of-testing tech troubleshooting for your school/district.

Digital Overview Q and A

A brief overview of the spring 2022 Connecticut SAT School Day digital exam was held on September 15, 2021. A [recorded version of the webinar](#) and [copies of the slides are available on our web site](#). This will be the first in a series of trainings planned to get school staff ready for the 2022 administration.

The ***Sensible Assessment Practices in Action*** was updated to support the return to school this fall 2021. It offers guidance to educators, including general and special education teachers, interventionists, instructional specialists, and related service providers on how they can “assess” their incoming students without necessarily having to “test” them using formal assessments. To conceptualize what this would look like in the classroom, the CSDE developed the Sensible Assessment Practices webinar series, which are short, focused webinars that provide examples, considerations, and resources specific to each phase of the school year referenced in the document. Topics designed for teachers include Start of the School Year, Building Community, and Beginning with a Unit Designed for Success. Additional webinars are coming soon and focus on using EdSight Secure Longitudinal Data, the Instruction and Assessment Cycle, and Beginning with a Unit Designed for Success. For easy access, visit the [Sensible Assessments in Action](#) webpage available on the [Connecticut State Department of Education](#) website.



Student Assessment News: September 21, 2021

Advanced Placement Updates

For 2022 Advanced Placement® (AP) testing, AP coordinators must order tests for students by **November 15, 2021**. This is the deadline to submit exam orders for all full-year and first-semester AP courses, and exam only sections. The late order fee applies for exams ordered after this date. Please visit the [College Board's AP Central](#) for more information.

The CSDE and College Board will cover the entire cost of the 2022 AP exam fees for all students from low-income families who attend public school in Connecticut. The AP coordinators will indicate in the **APRO** site a student's low income status. Since the AP, PSAT, and SAT are considered part of a CSDE State Educational Program, the AP, PSAT, and SAT coordinator can be given access to a student's income eligibility status. It is always a good idea to have the coordinator complete the Disclosure Release form to ensure that they have an understanding of the USDA regulations and do not use this information for other purposes. Note that each district's AP, PSAT, and SAT coordinator should use the student's free, reduced-price and paid eligibility status that is posted in the Public School Information System (PSIS) instead of requesting this data directly from the determining official or the food service director. Questions can be directed to [Michelle Rosado](#).

Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment Update

For the 2021-22 school year, all students are expected to be assessed on all applicable state assessments, including the Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment (CPFA). The assessment schedule was already announced in our [memorandum dated July 19, 2021](#). As was the case last year, the CSDE expects that when administering the CPFA, all health and safety protocols will be followed. Moreover, students who would normally be tested this year (e.g., all 6th graders) should be tested and reported through the ED165. While students who should have been tested either in 2019-20 or 2020-21 but were not tested due to the pandemic, can be administered "make up" assessments in 2021-22 to inform instruction and track student goals, these "make up" assessment results should not be reported to the CSDE.

Lexile® and Quantile® Tools for a New School Year!

Connecticut's Smarter Balanced Assessment scores are available for educators and parents/guardians. In EdSight Secure, for educators, and on the Individual Student Reports, for parents/guardians, Lexile and Quantile measures that align with the assessment scale scores can be found. For English learners who took the LAS Links, scores reported to the districts in the DRC Portal also report the aligned Lexile measure. Parents of students who took the LAS Links will find the Lexile measure for their child on the back of the Student Proficiency Report.

The CSDE provides resources within the [Lexile & Quantile Hub](#), where classroom teachers can find tools to help with instructional planning, and administrators can find tools to help gauge student growth toward college and career readiness. Our state's partnership with MetaMetrics allows educators free access to all of Hub's premium features.

Get started with the Lexile & Quantile Hub by visiting hub.lexile.com and creating an account. **Be sure to register with your school email address** for free access. Parents and families can also create free accounts and access resources for learning at home as well. For more information, visit our [Lexile and Quantile Measures in Connecticut](#) web page. To schedule a hands-on tour of the Lexile & Quantile Hub for your district, contact Matt Copeland [mcpoland@lexile.com](mailto:mcopeland@lexile.com). These FREE virtual sessions can be customized for different grade levels and content areas.



Connecticut Alternate Assessment



Student Assessment News: September 21, 2021

Summative Assessment Calendar for 2021-22

Assessment	Dates
LAS Links	January 3-March 4, 2022
NGSS Assessments	February 7-June 3, 2022 (Grade 11) March 28-June 3, 2022 (Grades 5 and 8)
Connecticut SAT School Day	March 23-25 and 29-30, 2022 Make-up Window: April 26-28, 2022
Connecticut Alternate Assessment—CTAA	March 28-June 3, 2022
Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment—CTAS (Administered throughout the year)	(Upload Window for Submission through the Data Entry Interface (DEI)) March 28-June 3, 2022 (Grades 5, 8, and 11)
Connecticut Smarter Balanced Assessments	March 28-June 3, 2022

ISR Delivery and Sample Letters

Individual Student Reports for Smarter Balanced, NGSS, CTAA and CTAS were distributed to districts from Cambium Assessments Inc. early September. If districts have not received them, contact ctstudentassessment@ct.gov. Additionally, sample parent/guardian letter for [Smarter Balanced](#), [NGSS](#), [CTAA](#) and [CTAS](#) are available on the CSDE website.

College Board Opportunity Scholarship

The College Board Opportunity Scholarships program is currently open to class of 2022 students in the United States, Puerto Rico, and U.S. territories, regardless of citizenship status. More information is available on the [College Board's web site](#).

Performance Matters Forum, December 8, 2021, Connecticut Convention Center

This year's PMF will feature Curated Roundtable Discussions around topics such as Assessment, College Readiness, Social Emotional Support, Special Education, EdSight and English Learners.

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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