



Student Assessment News

Connecticut State Department of Education • Performance Office

October 28, 2021

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

Smarter Balanced Ecosystem Course

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The Smarter Balanced Ecosystem Course is a new, self-paced course available at no cost to Connecticut educators. It gives educators the opportunity to learn about the Smarter Balanced system of tools and resources including:

- the **formative assessment process** and how to help students achieve their learning goals,
- the different types of **interim assessments** and how they can be used to inform instruction,
- instructional resources and strategies available in **Tools for Teachers**,
- depth of knowledge assessed by the different types of tests through the **Smarter Content Explorer** website, and
- the **summative assessments**.



The course includes videos, annotated note-taking guides, and even a scavenger hunt that challenges the user to find specific professional learning resources in the Tools for Teachers website. The course takes about two hours to complete. Participants will receive a certificate of completion after successfully passing the embedded quizzes.

Ready to sign up? Visit the [Smarter Balanced Training Website](#) to register using your school email address.

If you have any questions, please contact Cristi Alberino at Cristi.Alberino@ct.gov.

Social Emotional Learning Modules

New educator social-emotional learning resources are now available on the Smarter Balanced [Tools for Teachers Website](#). The resources were developed specifically to help educators address their students' social-emotional learning and promote their academic success.

Smarter Balanced partnered with [Parent Institute for Quality Education \(PIQE\)](#) to create these virtual professional development modules. The resources make clear the connection between healthy social-emotional skills and academic success, and help educators partner with students and families to support social-emotional development.

The [Tools for Teachers](#) resources are organized into three, 45-to-60-minute professional development modules on self-awareness, self-management, and social awareness.



Connecticut Alternate Assessment



Connecticut SAT School Day



CT SAT School Day Updates

2022 Connecticut SAT School Day Digital Testing Webinar Series

In the spring 2022, all grade 11 students will take the Connecticut SAT School Day using a computer instead of paper and pencil. The test will be administered on March 23-25 & 29-30, 2022, with make-ups scheduled for April 26-28, 2022. Schools can use all of these days to administer the test digitally. All students do not need to be tested on the same day.

In order to prepare staff for digital testing, a series of webinars is scheduled. All sessions are from 1:00-2:00 PM. [Attendees must register](#) for the entire series but may attend *all or some* of the sessions. Webinars will be recorded and posted to the [CSDE's CT SAT School Day web page](#).

College Board's Digital Testing Systems

November 4, 2021, at 1pm

Audience – Test Coordinators, Principals, District Administrators, SSD Coordinators, Tech Coordinators
Overview of College Board's digital testing systems including setting up accounts, district level access, resources available for students and staff and walkthrough of platform and different resources

Accommodations and College Board's Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD)

November 8, 2021, at 1pm

Audience – new SSD Coordinators or returning SSD Coordinators who want a refresher
Overview of the types of accommodations and the process for entering accommodations into the College Board's SSD system

Role of the Tech Coordinator

November 17, 2021, at 1pm

Audience – Tech Coordinators (and any other staff)
Overview of the specifications of the digital system, role of the tech coordinator and tech prep needed for testing

Entering Accommodations into the TIDE System for Digital Testing

December 6, 2021, at 1pm

Audience -- SSD Coordinators and Test Coordinators (and any other staff)
Overview of the process for entering approved accommodations in the College Board's TIDE System in preparation for digital testing

More information about [College Board's Digital Testing](#) can be found on their web site. Please direct any questions to Michelle Rosado, CSDE, at michelle.rosado@ct.gov.

SSD Online

Need a refresher on College Board's Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) online system? Check out the [College Board SSD Online Demo](#) and the [College Board Accommodations and Supports Handbook](#), available on the [Connecticut SAT School Day webpage](#). Even though the test is moving to digital, SSD Coordinators will continue to use the College Board's SSD to submit accommodation requests between November 29, 2021, and February 2, 2022.

CT SAT School Day Updates

Accommodations and Digital Testing

Interested in getting a head start on learning more about the availability of accommodations for digital testing? The [2022 Connecticut SAT School Day Accessibility Chart](#) captures the embedded and non-embedded universal tools, accommodations, and English learner (EL) supports available for eligible students. You may notice some differences between the naming conventions of these supports and accommodations, but their functionality remains the same as on other Connecticut online statewide assessments. [Accommodations for Students with Individualized Education Programs and Section 504 Plans and Supports for English Learners: What to Expect for Digital Testing](#) explains the similarities between processes related to requesting accommodations for the Connecticut SAT School day using SSD online and new procedures related to digital testing, such as entering approved accommodations in Cambium’s TIDE system prior to testing. More information will be provided on the December 6 webinar.

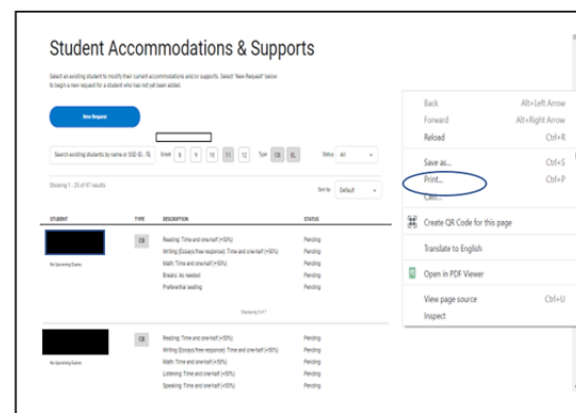
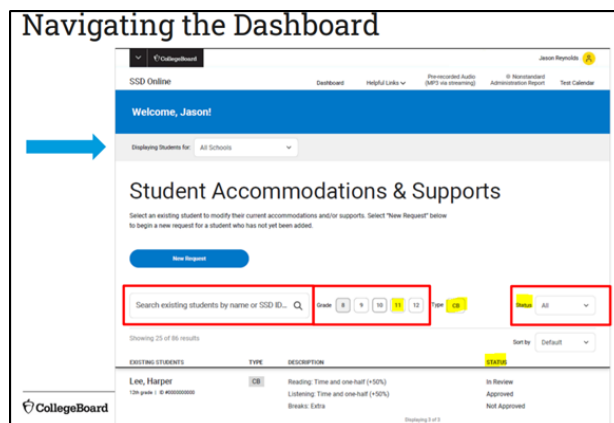
SSD Online Submission Window for Students with an IEP, 504 Plan or English Learners

Accommodations must be submitted through the College Board’s SSD online system for students with an IEP or Section 504 Plan between **November 29, 2021, and February 2, 2022**. Requests for EL time and one-half for eligible students can be entered in SSD between **January and February 2022 (exact dates TBD)**.

SSD Coordinators are encouraged to work with appropriate staff to review their current 11th grader rosters to determine which students qualify for accommodations and EL supports, or may require updates to pre-existing accommodations approved by the College Board from former test administrations. One way to accomplish this is by printing a report of existing 11th graders with SSD accounts.

1. Authorized SSD users should log on to [SSD Online](#).
2. From the dashboard, select Grade 11 and filter by choosing “CB” accommodations in the “Type” field. Then, filter by status: in review, approved, or non-approved.
3. Right click and select print.
4. Track changes and make updates on the paper copies. When the SSD submission opens on November 29, you’ll be ready to submit changes. As a reminder, if you have students that were not approved for certain accommodations on College Board assessments in the past, but qualify for them per an active IEP/504 Plan, resubmit requests for the Connecticut SAT School Day.

If you have any questions, please contact [Deirdre Ducharme](#) or the College Board SAT School Day Customer Support at 855-373-6387 or SATSchoolDaySupport@collegeboard.org with questions related to SSD Online.



Special Populations Updates

2021-22 Connecticut Assessment Guidelines

The new [2021-22 Assessment Guidelines](#) is now posted to the Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal. This resource is intended to provide guidance for Connecticut educators who must make decisions about testing special student populations for the following assessments: Smarter Balanced, Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessment, Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) in English language arts and mathematics, and the Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS) Assessment. This resource captures information related to accessibility features, designated supports, and accommodations for Connecticut’s statewide testing program.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities, Section 504 and English Learner Students

The window to submit accommodations for students with an active IEP or Section 504 Plan taking Smarter Balanced or NGSS Assessments will be from November 19, 2021- June 3, 2022. If students are taking interim assessments prior to November 19, accommodations and designated supports are manually entered by the teacher using the Test Administration Interface. Refer to these resources for details:

- [Manually Entering Designated Supports and Accommodations](#)
- [Managing Student Test Settings in TIDE](#)

Annual Online Training Available Now for Teachers Administering the Connecticut Alternate Assessments

[The Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Training](#)—Required for Teachers Administering the Alternate (TEAs) for the 2021-2022 school year is now available. The training course link, along with all other relevant training resources, can be found on the Alternate Assessment webpage located on the Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal or by referencing this link: <https://ct.portal.cambiumast.com/en/announcements/2021/09/ct-ta-cert-course>.

As a reminder, the Data Entry Interface (DEI) opens on November 19, allowing trained TEAs to submit the Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form. Teachers without a TEA user role or those TEAs who have not completed training will not have access to the DEI. Teachers must plan ahead complete this important training.

Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form	
Submission Dates Through the Data Entry Interface (DEI)	Student Subgroup
November 19– December 22, 2021	Eligible students in Grade 11; Dually identified students (special education and EL) in Grades 3-8 and 11.
November 19, 2021 – March 1, 2022	Eligible students in Grades 3-8; Extended deadline for newly eligible Grade 11 students
June 3, 2022	DEI closes for the spring 2021 assessment window.

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Special Populations Updates

ELAC Workshops

Registration is open for English Learner Assessment Coordinator (ELAC) Training for the LAS Links assessment administration. All district ELACs are urged to attend one of the sessions as the training has been significantly restructured with increased attention on the administration difficulties districts regularly encounter.

[Monday, November 8, 2021, 9 AM – 12 PM](#)

[Tuesday, November 9, 2021, 12 PM – 3 PM](#)

[Wednesday, November 10, 2021, 9 AM-12 PM](#)

Clarification of IEP Page 9 for English Learners

English Language Proficiency Assessment

- English Language Proficiency Assessment required for all English Learners Grades K-12
- Student requires designated supports/accommodations on the ELP assessment

If a student is dually identified (both an English learner and a student with disabilities) in Grades K-12, the first checkbox under English Language Proficiency Assessment on page 9 should be selected. The selection of this checkbox will include students who are English Learners who are also determined eligible for participation in an alternate assessment.

The second checkbox is specifically for the English Language Proficiency Assessment, the LAS Links, for Grades K-12. If the student has an IEP, is participating in the LAS Links, and that student requires supports and accommodations, (as described in the online LAS Links Accommodations Guidelines), this second box should be selected. This will be explained in the upcoming ELAC Training and in a forthcoming communication called Assessment Procedures for Dually Identified Students for the 2021-22 School Year memo.

Dually-identified students who meet eligibility criteria to participate in the Alternate Assessment (CTAA and CTAS) using the [Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form](#) will have the first box selected indicating the English Language Proficiency Assessment is required, and will not participate in the LAS Links because it is not an appropriate assessment for this relatively small group of students.

Similarly, for dually-identified students in Grades K-2, 9, 10, and 12, if the first box is selected indicating English Language Proficiency Assessment is required, and the student is identified as potentially eligible to participate in an Alternate Assessment, they will not participate in the LAS Links. Instructions about this process will be included in the forthcoming Assessment Procedures for Dually Identified Students for the 2021-22 School Year memo.

Special Populations Updates

Information Technology Contact for LAS Links

Districts are required to report an Information Technology (IT) contact who will support the LAS Links assessment. The IT Coordinator must complete a [survey](#) found in the [Supporting English Learners During the 2021-22 School Year letter](#). Once the LAS Links Lead IT Coordinator has submitted the survey, they will receive an invitation to register for one of the two LAS Links IT Webinars, which will be on November 1, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. and December 1, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.

Parent/Guardian Student Reports for LAS Links

Now available on the [Connecticut DRC LAS Links](#) website, in the Scoring and Reporting section, are letters to support communication with parents/guardians who may be receiving copies of their child's LAS Links Student Score Report from the 2021 testing session. This version of the letter has been shortened, uses more accessible vocabulary, and follows the layout of the Student Proficiency Report. It is available in the following languages: English, Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Haitian-Creole, Polish, Portuguese, and Spanish.

PSAT and AP Reminders from College Board

Q. What can I do for my students who were unable to take the PSAT/NMSQT this October?

A. You may test 10th graders using the PSAT 10 in February, March, or April. You may test 11th graders using SAT School Day in March or April. If you're unable to test on an official PSAT/NMSQT date in 2021, students who are eligible for National Merit Scholarship Corporation's program may reach out to them to request [alternate entry](#) into their program.

Q. When will PSAT/NMSQT score reports be available?

A. For educators, most scores will be available November 29, 2021. Scores will be available December 6 and 7 for students, depending on where they reside.

Q. How can I access PSAT/NMSQT score reports?

A. All scores will be available in the [K-12 score reporting portal](#). If you've never used the K-12 score reporting portal, your school's access manager can provide you with access. Be sure to request Detail Access to see individual student scores.

Q. When do I need to register for and order second-semester AP exam only sections?

A. All exam only sections, regardless if they start in the fall or the spring, must have orders placed by the November 15 deadline or the late order fee will be applicable.

Q. How much is the late order fee if we're unable to register students by November 15?

A. The late order fee is \$40 per exam.

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Summative Assessment Calendar for 2021-22

Assessment	Dates
LAS Links	January 3-March 4, 2022
NGSS	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

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.

