Student Assessment News
Connecticut State Department of Education • Performance Office

April 2023

CT-SEDS to TIDE Designated Supports/Accommodation Sync

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)/Public Consulting Group (PCG) have synced all applicable designated supports/accommodations in CT SEDS to the Test Information Delivery Engine (TIDE) system. TIDE is the student management system used by Cambium Assessment, Inc. for Smarter Balanced and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) summative assessments. The CSDE will conduct this *sync nightly* through **June 2, 2023**, and load any designated supports/accommodations selected in CT-SEDS for state-wide testing for those students with a finalized/implemented IEP/504 plan in CT-SEDS. Please note that the IDEA and 504 Indicator must be set in the PSIS Registration Module for designated supports/accommodations to sync with TIDE. Please see the CT-SEDS to TIDE Designated Supports/Accommodation Sync FAQ for more information about this recently implemented sync.

Office Hours

The CSDE Performance Office staff will continue to host optional Office Hour virtual meetings during the 2023 testing calendar. On these, the CSDE team and our partner vendor, Cambium Assessment Inc. (CAI), will provide brief assessment updates and answer any questions about Smarter Balanced, NGSS, CTAA, and CTAS testing. The Office Hours will run every week on Thursday from 3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. beginning on March 30, 2023. No registration is required.

Meeting details are included below:

Click here to join the meeting

Or call in (audio only)
+1 860-840-2075,,476125857#
Phone Conference ID: 476 125 857#

State Summative Assessment Calendar for Connecticut public schools for the 2023-24 school year

Webinar about College Board's *New* Digital Test for SY 2023-24

College Board is launching a New Digital Test Platform for school year 2023-24. Two informational TEAMs webinars have been scheduled to provide information and give educators an opportunity to ask questions about the Connecticut SAT School Day. Each webinar has the same content and will be recorded and posted.

Register for May 2 from 10-11:30 AM

Register for May 11 from 12:30-2:00 PM

CTAA — Connecticut Alternate Assessment · Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment · Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium · Connecticut Next Generation Science Assessment · CONNECTICUT SAT School Day

Connecticut SAT Updates

PSIS and College Board TIDE

The CSDE will be submitting a new file from PSIS registration to College Board's (CB) TIDE on April 5. All grade 11 students in PSIS will be included in this file and will be re-registered for the April makeup test. However, schools should only test students who were absent, new to your school, or who are eligible for a makeup. The CSDE will submit the last file from PSIS to College Board on April 25. To be tested, students must be listed in CB TIDE. If you have students missing from College Board TIDE, then please reach out to your district's PSIS coordinator. The CSDE pulls files from PSIS to populate CB TIDE (see chart below). Power School is different from PSIS. **NOTE: Students will not be removed from CB TIDE.** Disregard any ineligible students listed in CB TIDE.

Districts need to have data correct in PSIS Registration	CSDE Submits file to College Board (CB)	Date students are visible in CB TIDE
New File for April testing- All students in CT are registered for the April additional makeup dates for the CT SAT because the CSDE does not keep track which students need to take the makeup test.		
4/3/23	4/4/23	4/5/23
4/17/23	4/18/23	4/19/23
4/24/23	4/25/23	4/26/23

Make-ups

As test coordinator, you are responsible for determining which students are eligible for the makeup administration. These will be students who did not test during the primary testing window or who experienced an irregularity and are eligible to test again. No other students may participate in the makeup administration. **Starting April 5**, you should be able to see students in CB TIDE, configure test settings, create rosters, and print test tickets in preparation for the makeup testing window. If you submitted an Irregularity Report (IR) for a student that tested in the primary testing window, plan to administer the makeup test unless you receive a notification from College Board that the student is ineligible for a makeup. This notification may be sent in a letter or email and typically arrives by Friday, April 21. For students involved in a potential irregularity, student test scores may be held until after the April make-ups dates in case the students are re-taking the test.

SAT Makeup Testing Dates	
Makeup Testing Window:	April 25, 26, 27

New Test Tickets and Optional Preadministration

New test tickets must be printed for students testing in April. Select the April 25-27 window when printing the tickets. In addition, if students want to complete the *optional* preadministration session, this must be done prior to the makeup testing date or immediately after they finish testing.

Test Settings in CB TIDE for Students with Approved Accommodations

CB TIDE test settings must be configured again for any students taking a makeup test with approved accommodations. Even if settings were configured for students for the March testing window, they must be configured again prior to April testing window. You may begin configuring test settings for April testing on Wednesday, April 5. If you have any students whose accommodations are still pending in SSD, please contact Deirdre Ducharme at Deirdre.ducharme@ct.gov as soon as possible. Students may not test with accommodations that are not approved in SSD. As an additional reminder, test settings/accommodations may not be updated in TIDE after a student begins testing.

Connecticut SAT Updates

Student Access to Scores

Students need a College Board account to view their CT SAT score. Scores from the March administration of the CT SAT School Day will be available in College Board student accounts beginning on **April 14** and **May 18** for April testers. Direct students to https://studentscores.collegeboard.org/viewscore to log in. Students can register for an account if they do not already have one. Some student scores will be released later for conditions that require additional attention. Students will receive an e-mail from the College Board as their scores are released. Educators will have access to scores beginning on **April 17**. See Score Report Portal Help Center: https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/help-center/k12-reporting-portal if you have questions on how to access the K-12 Score Report Portal.

Fee Waivers

Even though the CT SAT is available to all students at no cost, fee waivers provide more benefits to eligible students. Information about fee waivers is available on the College Board's web site. Test Coordinators must have access to the **College Board's K-12 Educators Score Reporting Portal** to access the Fee Waiver codes for eligible students. If you do not have access to this site, please contact your school principal. Distribute the codes to your eligible students. Instructions about how to add fee waiver codes to a student's College Board account is available on the CB web site.

Participation for Accountability

For SAT participation rate calculations, the CSDE uses PSIS registration to identify Grade 11 students, and not CB TIDE. Grade designations in PSIS registration are based on local board policy. Any student who remains designated as Grade 11 in PSIS registration through 4/27 will be included as a student who must participate on the CT SAT. A district has until 4/27 COB to change a student's grade to 10 (or any grade other than 11) so that the student is not included in any CSDE school day SAT reporting. If a student's grade designation changed from Grade 10 to Grade 11 on May 1 (or any date after 4/27), that student would not be part of CT SAT participation rate calculations because the file for participation rate calculations was created at the end of the day on 4/27.

> The Smarter Balanced **Integrated Deeper Learning Resources** are instructional resources designed to support educators' instruction in the full range of higher-order thinking skills that are measured by Smarter Balanced performance tasks. Integrated Deeper Learning Resources are now available in grades 3-8.

Smarter Balanced and NGSS Paper Material Orders and Returns

The District Administrator (DA) in TIDE is responsible for ordering paper materials for students requiring Large Print or Braille test booklets**. Remember that although the English Language Arts Performance Task (PT) may appear in the provided paper materials, it should not be NOT administered.** Additionally, all student responses for Large Print and Braille must be transcribed into the Data Entry Interface (DEI) for scoring, prior to June 2, 2023, before returning the secure paper documents to Measurement Incorporated. Please email Deirdre Ducharme or Janet Stuck with any questions.

Special Populations Updates

NGSS Reminders for Non-Embedded Universal Tools and Designated Supports

When preparing for NGSS testing, consider any additional tools your students might need.

- Download and print Periodic Tables for students in grades 8 and 11 who need a hardcopy. Spanish and English versions are available on the portal. As a reminder, the Periodic Tables are embedded in the Test Delivery Interface as a universal tool.
- Bilingual Dictionaries and Glossaries Authorized for Use by English Learners/Multilingual Learners provide potential resources for these students on the NGSS assessment.
- Text-to-Speech of science stimuli and items is available in English and Spanish. To enable the Spanish, set Presentation to Toggle for NGSS and activate Text-to-Speech for NGSS. The Spanish voice pack must be installed on the student's device prior to testing. The voice pack option selected should be based on the voice the student uses during instruction. For details, refer to page 28 of the Assessment Guidelines. For more information, refer to the Accessibility Chart and the Embedded and Non-Embedded Designated Supports for English Learners brochure.

Reader Options Table for Smarter Balanced and NGSS

There are often questions about the available designated supports and accommodations for the Smarter Balanced Math and ELA and NGSS assessments available for students who have a print or visual disability, or students who have language support needs (e.g., students with reading challenges, or EL/MLs who are not yet proficient in English). Refer to the Reader Options Table with details by subtest to learn about supports to help meet your student's access needs.

Embedded and Non-Embedded Designated Supports for English Learners

Students who are English learners/multilingual learners (EL/MLs) may benefit from using designated supports when participating on the Connecticut state-wide assessments. These designated supports are intended as a language support for students who have limited English language skills, whether or not they are identified in PSIS as EL or EL with a disability. The use of these supports may result in the student needing additional overall time to complete the assessment. Students should use the Practice Test with the designated supports prior to testing to ensure that they are appropriate and accessible prior to use on statewide assessments. Refer to the Embedded and Non-Embedded Designated Supports for English Learners/Multilingual Learners brochure for details.

2022-23 District Administrator Trainings

General Test Administration Policies Session (**recorded version**) - January 18 and 20, 2023

Test Administrator Training - This PowerPoint is intended for District Administrators (DA's in TIDE) as an option to train test administrators.

Connecticut Alternate Assessment Updates (**recorded version**)- This brief overview covers topics related to the 2022-23 assessment window, teacher training, and processes for submitting the Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form for students that qualify for the academic alternate assessments.

March 30 Office Hours Webinar Presentation

CTAA
Connecticut Alternate Assessment

Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment

Smarter Balanced
Assessment Consortium

CONNECTICUT NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE ASSESSMENT

CONNECTICUT
SAT School Day

Special Populations Updates

Accommodation Reminders

Special Documented Accommodations Should Only be Selected in Exceptional Circumstances.

In rare circumstances, there may be a student whose disabilities are such that the allowable embedded and non-embedded accommodations listed in the Assessment Guidelines would be insufficient to provide access to the Smarter Balanced and NGSS Assessments (e.g., significant and complex physical, visual, or print disabilities). These specialized, non-standard accommodations may include: Read Aloud of Reading Passages, Human Signer/Visual Support (Items and/or passages), Scribe, Print on Demand, Manipulatives (Math, Grades 3-8), Hand-held calculator (Math, Grades 6-8) for calculator-allowed items (Segment 1 and Math PT), or Customized.

Verify that the selection of certain accommodations do not conflict.

PPTs should review and confirm that designated supports and accommodations selected in IEP/504 plans do not conflict when selecting them for statewide testing. Those indicated below with an asterisk are examples of non-standard, special documented accommodations that should only be chosen for exceptional cases. Conflicting accommodations might include the accidental selection of a non-standard special documented accommodation in lieu of the embedded, standard version of that accommodation or the selection of both the standard and non-standard equivalent of the accommodation. For example:

- Embedded Text-to-Speech Items (Not ELA Reading Passages) and Non-Embedded Read Aloud Items (NOT ELA Reading Passages)
- Embedded Text-to-Speech ELA Reading Passages and Non-Embedded Read Aloud ELA Reading Passages
- Embedded Speech-to-Text (provided through the test delivery interface for open-ended items) and Scribe
- Embedded Color Contrast and Non-Embedded Color Contrast or Color Overlay
- Braille Booklet and Large Print
- Specialized Calculator (Grade 6-8 Math or Science Grades 5, 8, 11), which is a Braille/Talking Calculator, and Calculator (Math Grade 6-8 Special Documented Accommodation)

Distribute Appropriate Guidelines/Protocols for Students Approved for Special Documented Accommodations.

When students are granted approval through the special documented petition process, districts will receive a letter from the CSDE that contains important resources to be reviewed by the test administrator in advance of testing. However, when these accommodations are selected in active IEP/504 plans in CT-SEDS, District Administrators (DAs) for Testing should work with their case managers and Special Education Directors to identify which students were selected for these special accommodations in CT-SEDS. Then, as applicable, provide assigned test administrators with proper training and guidelines before the accommodation is provided to the student. Careful attention to planning is required when providing special documented accommodations to ensure that students are provided with the correct test materials and that the accommodations are correctly administered following test security and confidentiality protocols.

Special Documented Accommodations Resources for Proctors Providing Non-Standard Accommodations	
When the PPT/504 plan rules out that a student's needs cannot be met through the standard supports/accommodations, there are specific guidelines that must be provided to the teacher (and reviewed/signed by teacher administering the accommodation(s)) prior to testing.	
Accommodation Type	**Resources Required for Review by Test Administrator prior to Testing**
Scribe	Scribe Protocol
Human Signer/Visual Support for ELA or Math	Smarter Balanced/NGSS Guidelines for Read Aloud Test Reader Documented Evidence of a Read Aloud of the Smarter Balanced ELA Reading Passages Read Aloud Protocol
Human Signer/Visual Support for ELA Reading Passages	Smarter Balanced/NGSS Guidelines for Read Aloud Test Reader Documented Evidence of a Read Aloud of the Smarter Balanced ELA Reading Passages Read Aloud Protocol (maintain locally in student file)
Math Manipulatives (Grades 3-8)	Math Manipulatives brochure
Non-Embedded Calculator (Math Grades 6-8)	This non-standard accommodation is only permitted for the calculator Segment 1 of the Smarter Balanced Math Assessment and the Math Performance Task in Grades 6-8. Refer to Page 38 and Appendix A of the Assessment Guidelines for details related to calculator specifications.

CTAA Connecticut Alternate Assessment

Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

CONNECTICUT NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE ASSESSMENT

CONNECTICUT SAT School Day

Public School Information System (PSIS) and State Assessments

The Public School Information System (PSIS) provides data to test delivery systems for state summative assessments administered to Connecticut public school students. These assessments include the LAS Links, the Collaborative for the Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency (CAAELP), Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessment, Smarter Balanced, Connecticut Alternate Assessments (CTAA) in English language arts and mathematics, Connecticut Alternate Science (CTAS), and the Connecticut SAT School Day. **District PSIS Coordinators must work closely with Testing Coordinators, English Language Assessment Coordinators (ELACs), and SAT Test Coordinators to ensure that student information is being reported accurately.** The state relies on districts to provide accurate reporting of PSIS student-level data. Select fields such as English Learner status, Special Education status, and Section 504 status must be updated prior to testing to ensure students eligible for accommodations may access them. Data are used for public/secure reporting of statewide test results and as part of Connecticut's Next Generation Accountability System.

The PSIS Registration module has been updated to include the following Testing Demographic fields:

- Special Education (SPED) Status,
- Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) Status,
- English Learner/Multilingual Learner (EL/ML) Status,
- Military Family,
- Homeless,
- Recently Arrived EL/ML, and
- Section 504 Status.

These seven values must reflect the student's status at the time of testing for the 2022-23 school year. The SPED, FRL, EL/ML, Military Family, and Homeless have been loaded with the values reported in the October PSIS Collection Freeze Zero file (i.e., freeze file from the collection generated on November 3, 2022). The values for Recently Arrived EL and Section 504 were not pulled from Freeze Zero because these data are not reported in the PSIS October collection. These values have been set to "No" in the Registration Module and must be updated in the PSIS Registration Module for testing and reporting purposes.

Please note, that if the status of any the first five fields changed from the value reported in the October PSIS Collection Freeze Zero, or if the student being tested was not in the PSIS October Collection Freeze Zero, the District PSIS Coordinator must update the student's record in the PSIS Registration Module.

Changes to the Testing Demographic data can be made via the "Edit Registration/Unregister" page in the PSIS Registration Module or by batch. The Testing Demographics Record Layout for batch uploads can be found in the PSIS Reference Guide located on the PSIS help site.

District PSIS Coordinators must make all changes to student enrollment and demographic information directly into the PSIS Registration Module. Student demographic values will be saved and the fields will be locked in PSIS on the following dates for accountability calculations:

- **March 3, 2023,** for LAS Links;
- **March 31, 2023,** for the Collaborative for the Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency (CAAELP);
- **April 27, 2023,** for the Connecticut SAT School Day; and
- **June 2, 2023**, for Smarter Balanced Assessments, the Next Generation Science Standards Assessments, and the Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Assessments (CTAS and CTAA).

The Missing Connecticut Testing Demographic Status Values report is available in PSIS Registration Module, and the Active Roster download has been updated to include the Testing Demographic values. Data from the PSIS Registration Module are updated on a nightly basis in both the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) and DRC's INSIGHT System. Again, these seven fields in the PSIS Registration Module must reflect the student's status at the time of testing.

To enter accommodations in TIDE, students must be identified as Special Education or Section 504 in the PSIS Registration Module. (CSDE is working on a process to load SPED and Section 504 values as well as accommodations from CT-SEDS into PSIS on a nightly basis. More information will be provided as that process is implemented.) Similarly, for a student to access a LAS Links assessment in the DRC Insight system, a student must be identified as an English learner/multilingual learner in the PSIS Registration Module. Additionally, a student may be identified as both an English learner and a student with disabilities, and should be reflected as such in the PSIS testing demographic fields prior to the opening of the LAS Links testing window, **January 3, 2023**.

Summative Assessment Calendar for 2022-23

Assessment	Dates
CT SAT School Day	Make up dates: April 25-27, 2023
NGSS	February 6-June 2, 2023 (Grade 11) March 27-June 2, 2023 (Grades 5 and 8)
Connecticut Alternate Assessment—CTAA	March 27-June 2, 2023
Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment—CTAS (Administered throughout the year)	(Upload Window for Submission through the DEI: CTAS Student Score Worksheet) March 27-June 2, 2023 (Grades 5, 8, and 11)
Connecticut Smarter Balanced Assessments	March 27-June 2, 2023
Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment	Anytime during the school year

The CSDE Performance Office is starting a new professional learning series called **Behind the Numbers: From Data to Dashboards**. The sessions in this series will show how data from different sources are incorporated into EdSight reports/dashboards including Next Generation Accountability reports. They will also highlight the proactive steps that districts can take to ensure that their data are accurate and complete when submitted to the CSDE. Three virtual sessions will be offered for the 2022-23 school year. The first session, Next Generation Accountability Indicators Supported by the Teacher Course Student (TCS) Collection will take place on **Friday, April 21**. Check out the flyer to register.

The CSDE will be collecting individual student assessment achievement levels for the **Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment (CPFA)** in 2022-23. Districts will be required to provide the achievement level attained for all four CPFA components for all students in tested grades through an online application. The *CPFA Individual Student Collection Application* is now open. Information on the collection and application (e.g., Test Administration Manual, CPFA Individual Student Collection Application Users Guide and Sample/Template File) can be found on the **CPFA Individual Student Collection Page**. **The deadline for data submission is June 30, 2023**.