

Embedded and Non-Embedded Designated Supports for English Learners

Students who are English learners (ELs) 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. See the CSDE Assessment Guidelines for information on how to determine if this support is appropriate for your student.

Embedded designated supports are those provided through the secure Test Delivery Interface, while non-embedded designated supports are those provided by the teacher at the time of testing.

[Table 1](#) indicates the embedded and non-embedded designated supports available for the Smarter Balanced assessments for English learners in Grades 3-8. [Table 2](#) indicates the embedded and non-embedded designated supports available for the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) assessments administered to students in Grades 5, 8, and 11.

Table 1. Smarter Balanced Assessments – Embedded and Non-Embedded Designated Supports

Designated Support	Available Subjects	Available Format of Designated Support
Translation (Glossary)	Mathematics	Embedded
Text-to-Speech	English Language Arts items (Does NOT include ELA Reading Passages ¹) Mathematics items & stimuli Science items & stimuli	Embedded
Spanish Presentation (Stacked)	Mathematics	Embedded
Read Aloud in Spanish for Directions and Items	Mathematics	Non-Embedded
Translated Test Directions (for Select Languages Only) Available on the Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal	English Language Arts Mathematics	Non-Embedded
Read Aloud in English for Directions and Items	English Language Arts (Not Reading Passages ²) Mathematics	Non-Embedded
Simplified Test Directions Guidelines for Simplified Test Directions	English Language Arts Mathematics	Non-Embedded

¹ Text-to-Speech in English for **Reading Passages** is available for dually identified ELs with an IEP or 504 Plan who qualify for this as an accommodation.

² Read Aloud in English for **Reading Passages** is available for dually identified ELs with an IEP or 504 Plan who qualify for this as an accommodation. This requires a Special Documented Accommodations Petition to be submitted to the CSDE Performance Office. Contact 860-713-6860 for more information.

Table 2. NGSS Assessments – Embedded and Non-Embedded Designated Supports

Designated Support	Available Subjects	Available Format of Designated Support
Spanish Presentation (Toggle ³)	Science	Embedded
Text-to-Speech in English	Science	Embedded
Text-to-Speech in Spanish ⁴	Science	Embedded
Native Reader of Test Directions (Any Language)	Science	Non-Embedded
Read Aloud in English	Science	Non-Embedded
Read Aloud in Spanish	Science	Non-Embedded
Bilingual Dictionary ⁵	Science	Non-Embedded

³Spanish Presentation for NGSS functions differently from Spanish Presentation (stacked) for mathematics. For NGSS, the translation is presented in Spanish or English based on the selection of the toggle icon set by the student on the test screen. Language is defaulted to Spanish when Spanish is set in TIDE in the Presentation section.

⁴ Text-to-Speech in Spanish for NGSS functions when both Spanish Presentation (Toggle) for NGSS and Text-to-Speech for NGSS are activated in TIDE.

⁵The resource [Glossaries Authorized for Use by English Language Learners on MCAS](#) provides potential resources for bilingual word-to-word dictionaries allowed on Connecticut's statewide assessments.