Connecticut Smarter Balanced

Connecticut Smarter Balanced Performance Tasks
The Smarter Balanced Assessment window, opening on March 15 and ending on June 10, 2016, includes a computer adaptive test (CAT) for English language arts (ELA) and mathematics, and a math Performance Task. As a reminder, the ELA Performance Task will not be administered as part of the 2016 Smarter Balanced Assessment in Connecticut. Please note:

- The ELA Performance Tasks will no longer be selectable on the Test Administrator (TA) Interface.
- Test administrators should disregard all references to the administration of the ELA Performance Task in any manuals or guides.

Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Teacher Hand Scoring Material is Available in TIDE
Teacher Hand Scoring Materials for Math and ELA are available in TIDE and can be used as resources for professional learning opportunities or for instructional supports in the classroom. To access these resources in TIDE, click on the General Resources tab followed by the THSS Materials tab. Users will have access to the ELA and Math Exemplars and Training Guides in Grades 3-8 and 11, as well as crosswalk documents that identify the hand-scored items contained in the Interim Assessment Blocks and Interim Comprehensive Assessments.

Enhancements to the Test Administrator (TA) Interface
The CSDE has implemented changes to the Test Administrator (TA) Interface to minimize confusion by district staff when selecting the summative or interim tests. There is now a new color-coded “decision tree” that outlines and highlights which assessment the user is attempting to administer. Choices include:

1. Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment in blue;
2. CMT/CAPT Science Assessment in purple; and
3. Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment in green.

Full Tree Screenshot for 2015-16
Connecticut Smarter Balanced Continued

After selecting the assessment of choice, an “alert message” appears to help ensure that the test administra-
tors select the proper assessment.

Screenshot of Alert Message When You Select a Summative Test

CMT/CAPT Science

Science Test Administration Materials

The CMT/CAPT Science Test Administration window opened on March 1, 2016, and will remain open through
March 29. While manuals were shipped to districts/schools, the following CMT and CAPT Science Test Admin-
istration materials are available on the Connecticut Assessment Portal:

- CMT/CAPT Test Administration Manual for Online Testers
- CMT Science Test Coordinator’s Manual
- CMT Science Test Examiner’s Manual: Grade 5 and Grade 8
- CAPT Science Test Coordinator’s Manual
- CAPT Science Test Examiner’s Manual
- Narrated CMT and CAPT Science Training Module
- CMT and CAPT Science Training for Test Examiners

CMT/CAPT Science and Smarter Balanced: Designated Supports and Accommodations

Designated Supports and Accommodations for students identified as special education, Section 504, and Eng-
lish learners (ELs) are set directly in the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) for students who will be
taking the Smarter Balanced Assessments and the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) or Connecticut Academic
Performance Test (CAPT) Science. District personnel should verify in TIDE that students have the supports
and/or accommodations needed prior to testing. Additional test settings for students with updated individu-
ialized education programs (IEPs) or Section 504 plans can be set as needed. Allow at least 24 hours prior to
testing for the new supports/accommodations to be available.
Connecticut Alternate Assessments (CTAA) & CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science

CTAA & CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science Trained Teacher List
On March 10, 2016, the CTAA & CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science Trained Teacher list was posted in the CSDE TIDE under the Home tab. This list will only be made available to district test coordinators with a District Administer (DA) account and will be updated weekly as teachers complete the required CSDE Online CTAA & CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science Training. This training has been extended until April 1, 2016.

Important Dates
- The CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science Upload window is March 1-29, 2016. This assessment is entered via the Data Entry Interface (DEI).
- The CTAA test window is April 18-June 10, 2016. This CTAA will be accessed via the Test Delivery System (TDS) Secure Browser and Test Administration (TA) Interface.

CTAA and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklists Science Eligibility & Learner Characteristics Inventory (LCI)
Beginning March 1, 2016, any CTAA and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklists Science Eligibility & Learner Characteristics Inventory (LCI) submitted for a student participating in the CTAA and/or the CMT/CAPT Science must also have the “Alt Flag” indicated in Student Information section of TIDE (step-by-step instructions are included below). This will allow the student to appear on an “Alt Flag” roster and have access to the appropriate alternate assessment rather than the Smarter Balanced assessment, CMT Science, or CAPT Science. Once the LCI has been submitted on the DEI, districts must select YES on the Alt flag section on TIDE Student Demographics.

Connecticut Alternate Assessments (CTAA)

Instructions for Marking a Student for the Alternate Assessment
1. Select the Student Information tab.
2. In the View/Edit Students tab, select the appropriate school from the drop-down menu. Additional search criteria may be entered to narrow the results. Click Search.
Connecticut Alternate Assessments (CTAA) Continued

3. A list of students will generate from your search. Select View next to the student you wish to mark for the Alternate Assessment. The student’s information page will appear. Note: Students are automatically generated by SSID.

4. Locate the “Alt Flag” field in the Student Demographics box on the View Student Details page. Select [Yes] from the drop-down menu.

5. Click Save Changes at the bottom of the page. The student is now marked for the alternate assessment. Note: Users should allow at least 24 hours for the system to update prior to the start of testing.

SAT Update

Thank you for all of your hard work in carrying out the administration of the Connecticut SAT School Day on March 2, 2016. Please see below for some important information.

Ordering Materials for the April 27, 2016, Make-Up Test
Test center supervisors should have a received an e-mail from ETS on March 2, regarding the ordering of materials for students for the April 27, 2016, make-up Connecticut SAT School Day. Orders should account for the following students when giving your counts for materials:

- Absent students
- Students who became ill during testing and will retest
- Students who could not test because of lack of materials

If you did not receive the e-mail from ETS, please contact Michelle Rosado at michelle.rosado@ct.gov and provide the count of standard and non-standard materials needed for make-up testing on April 27, 2016.
STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS
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SAT Update Continued

Submitting Requests for College Reportable and State Allowable Accommodations
Schools must enter all accommodation requests for College Reportable and State Allowable Accommodations by March 25, 2016, in the College Board’s SSD for any students who will test, especially if these students have not yet been entered into the SSD system.

Making Corrections to Student Information
If student admission tickets or the roster contain incorrect information such as name, birth date, or mailing address, please contact Michelle Rosado at 860-713-6748. Please do not e-mail personal student information. When you call, please have the following available:

- Student’s SASID
- Correct name, if applicable
- Correct birthday, if applicable
- Correct address, if applicable

TIDE/PSIS Data Sync and New Data Elements in PSIS

District Test Coordinators and Public School Information System (PSIS) Coordinators should note the following changes to PSIS and its relationship with TIDE. The CSDE has recently refreshed the student-level data in TIDE. PSIS Coordinators should make all changes to student enrollment and demographic information directly in the PSIS Registration Module. Changes made in the PSIS Registration Module may take up to 24 hours to appear in TIDE. Any changes to a student’s status at the time of testing should be made directly in the PSIS Registration Module. District Test Coordinators may need to work with their District PSIS Coordinators to ensure student information is accurately reported in the PSIS Registration Module, and subsequently in TIDE.

On February 22, 2016, the CSDE added two new fields to the Spring 2016 Connecticut Testing Demographic Status section of the PSIS Registration Module. The new fields are Section 504 and Recently Arrived EL. The definitions of these fields are:

- Section 504: Under federal law, Section 504 students are those who require a Section 504 plan. A local 504 team identifies appropriate academic supports such as accommodations and modifications for individual students. A Section 504 plan is provided for a student to ensure equitable access to general education standards and curricula.

- Recently Arrived EL: Students who are English Learners (EL) can be identified as Recently Arrived EL if their initial entry date in a U.S. school is less than two years (i.e., 24 months) prior to test administration.

Districts should note the status of students who may qualify for these fields in the PSIS Registration Module.
At the time of this system refresh, the currently available fields of ELL, Special Education, and Free/Reduced Lunch Eligible were updated. The changed status of tested students will need to be maintained in the **PSIS Registration Module** for students in the tested grades (in Grades 3-8, 10, and 11 for Smarter Balanced, Connecticut Alternate Assessments, CMT/CAPT Science, and CMT/CAPT Science Skills Checklist). After March 1, the values should indicate a **student's status at the time of testing**. These values will be saved and the fields locked on June 10, 2016.

To assist in the accurate reporting of ELL, Special Education, and Free/Reduced Lunch Eligible, the CSDE is updating these values in the PSIS Registration Module as reported in the **January 2016 PSIS Collection**. Some students already had their status changed since the January PSIS collection. Many districts have been maintaining these changes as they occur in the PSIS Registration Module.

Even so, there may be some ELL cases and some Special Education cases where the rules that govern the update will now default students back to their January PSIS collections status. This may necessitate a further update in the **PSIS Registration Module** by district PSIS Coordinators to be sure that the current status is accurately reflected in PSIS. Updating accurately in PSIS will result in accurate reporting in TIDE.

Additionally, if two or more districts have the same student SASID actively registered in PSIS, TIDE will assign the student to the district with the latest district entry date.

The grade recorded in PSIS should always reflect the grade in which the student is being educated.

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**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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Levy Gillespie  
Equal Employment Opportunity Director/American with Disabilities Act Coordinator  
Connecticut State Department of Education  
25 Industrial Park Road  
Middletown, CT 06457  
860-807-2071  
levi.gillespie@ct.gov