

STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)
September 2, 2014

Connecticut State Department Of Education
CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov
860-713-6860

STUDENT ASSESSMENT COMMUNICATIONS

Updating the Measurement Incorporated Web Portal

To ensure that information regarding the Smarter Balanced Assessment, the CMT/CAPT Science Test (including Skills Checklist), and Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) is sent to the appropriate district staff member(s), please verify that the District Test Coordinator (DTC) and Second Contact information is accurate in the District Contact Verification (DCV) application of the [Measurement Incorporated \(MI\) Web Portal](#). The Grades 3 – 8 Smarter Balanced DTC is equivalent to the CMT DTC and the Smarter Balanced High School DTC is equivalent to the CAPT DTC. Please contact the Measurement Incorporated Connecticut Help Line at 1-866-762-1060 or Connecticut@measinc.com for assistance with the MI Web Portal. If you received this communication and are not the DTC, please forward this newsletter to the appropriate district staff member.

SMARTER BALANCED NEWS

Online Panel for Achievement Level Setting: Register Now!

Smarter Balanced invites K-12 educators, post-secondary educators, school administrators, parents, and community/business leaders to participate in the Online Panel for recommending achievement levels for the assessments. The achievement level setting process is a critical next step in developing an assessment system based on challenging, yet fair, expectations for students. The Online Panel (October 6–17, 2014) phase of achievement level setting provides an opportunity for up to a quarter of a million K–12 educators and other interested parties to participate in recommending achievement levels. To register for the Online Panel, visit www.smarterbalanced.org/onlinepanel. For more information on Achievement Level Setting, please visit the [Smarter Balanced Web site](#) and download the [Facts & FAQ](#) document.



Educators can shape the future of assessments. Make your voice heard on Smarter Balanced achievement level scores.

- Review actual test items.
- Recommend proficiency scores.
- Help establish consistent measures of student progress.

REGISTER NOW!
Online Panel: October 6-17, 2014

Digital Library Preview

As students return to the classroom, we would like to introduce the Smarter Balanced Digital Library as a valuable instructional tool. The Digital Library is an online collection of instructional and professional learning resources. It features more than 1,500 resources aligned to the Common Core State Standards and vetted by educators using quality criteria.

- Resources include lesson plans, unit plans, rubrics, instructional strategies, and professional learning materials. It also includes collaborative features that allow educators to rate resources and to pose questions and share expertise through online forums.
- The Digital Library was created by and for educators to support implementation of the Common Core State Standards using the formative assessment process. A third-grade teacher from Washington state notes: “The Digital Library is full of hands-on, ready-to-use resources and strategies for teachers across the nation to create high-quality classroom lessons for students.”

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- The Digital Library preview period runs through September 30, 2014. Connecticut educators will continue to have access to the Digital Library after this date.

Additional information about the Smarter Balanced Digital Library is available on the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) [Web site](#). Contact Joe Di Garbo at Joe.DiGarbo@ct.gov for access information.

Practice Tests

The Smarter Balanced Practice Test allows teachers, students, parents, and other interested parties to experience a full grade-level assessment. The Practice Tests mirror the year-end assessment. Each grade level assessment includes a variety of question types and difficulty (approximately 30 items each in English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics), as well as an ELA and mathematics performance task at each grade level (3–8 and 11). The latest version of the Practice Tests (updated in May 2014) include additional universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations that were not available in the previous version. All language supports, including translated glossaries and stacked Spanish translation, are available on mathematics Practice and Training Tests.



reminder

THE CONNECTICUT ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT (CTAA) NEWS

Recruitment for the National Center and State Collaborative Phase 2 Pilot Test

The Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) which was developed with the National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) will be administered in mathematics and English language arts in the spring of 2015 to students with significant cognitive disabilities. The NCSC will be conducting a second Pilot from October 20 - November 14, 2014, for students with significant cognitive disabilities in Grades 4 - 9 and 12 to continue the test development process. The [National Center and State Collaborative Phase 2 Pilot Test](#) letter was provided to District Test Coordinators with specifics about the Pilot and contact information for participation.

Upcoming Event: September 11, 3 - 4:00 p.m.

Achieve: Student Assessment Inventory for School Districts Webinar

In this webinar, scheduled for September 11 from 3 - 4:00 p.m., Achieve will share a new tool, the [Student Assessment Inventory for School Districts](#). The inventory tool is designed to guide district administrators and instructional leaders through a process to ensure the minimum number of tests are administered to provide essential instructional, diagnostic, and accountability information, and proactively address concerns about over-testing. This tool is designed to provide an opportunity for district leaders to take stock of district assessments and make decisions based on the findings. Please download the inventory prior to the webinar at the link above.

Dial In (Toll Free): 1-866-297-6395

To join the web conference, [CLICK HERE](#). You do not need to pre-register for the webinar.

