



**For Immediate Release:**

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## **Science Proficiency Up on CMT**

Overall CMT and CAPT Science results mixed  
Commissioner's Network schools show some strong gains

**(Hartford, CT)** – The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) today released the results of the 2014 Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) Science (Grades 5 and 8) and the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) Science in (Grade 10). The Department also released today scores for CMT and CAPT Reading, Writing and Mathematics for a small subset of districts.

Statewide, CMT Science results showed modest increases at the Proficient level in both tested grades, though scores in the CAPT Science are down slightly from last year. Overall, students with disabilities showed significant improvement in CMT Science in all tested grades at both Proficient and Goal. Also, the Commissioner's Network schools saw improvements at the Proficient level in all tested grades on both CMT Science and CAPT Science.

"Students' understanding of science is critical to their success in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century workplace. We are encouraged by these bright spots. But we also recognize that much work remains to be done in order to ready our students for the jobs of tomorrow," Commissioner of Education Stefan Pryor said. "We are pleased that the turnaround schools in the Commissioner's Network are showing such gains."

### **Science Test Results**

When referring to CMT/CAPT results, in each tested grade, the CSDE tracks two opportunities to improve a given subject area: the percentage of students at/above Proficient and the percentage of students at/above Goal.

Statewide, some encouraging results emerged. In both tested grades of CMT Science, the percentage of students scoring at/above Proficient increased.

Students with disabilities showed improvement on CMT Science at each tested grade level and opportunity for improvement. These represent the highest performance in three years for the percentage of students at/above Proficient in both Grades 5 and 8 and the highest in three years at/above Goal in Grade 8.

Commissioner's Network schools showed promising results. The State's lead initiative to turn around chronically struggling schools, the Commissioner's Network provides additional investments, greater flexibility, and increased accountability.

Commissioner's Network schools showed some strong increases in the percentage of students scoring at/above Proficient or Goal. The overall percentage of students scoring at at/above Proficient increased in all tested

grades in the Network. Also, the percentage of students scoring at/above Goal increased in Grade 8, and held steady in Grade 10 in the Network.

In addition, all but two of the individual schools in the Commissioner’s Network showed increases in the percentage of students scoring at/above Proficient and at/above Goal in half or more opportunities to improve on the CMT. Dunbar School in Bridgeport and Windham Middle School showed across the board gains in both Proficient and Goal in each of the tested grades.

The Alliance Districts, the State’s 30 lowest-performing school districts, also showed improvements. Of the 30 Alliance Districts, 21 districts showed gains in at least half the number of opportunities to improve on the Science CMT.

The Alliance Districts program offers districts significant financial resources, but also sets expectations that these investments will support proven strategies to support student success. These districts are deploying these new funds to facilitate the transition to the Common Core State Standards, the implementation of educator evaluation and support systems, improved initiatives to support positive school climate, and the turnaround of low performing schools.

The Educational Reform Districts – a ten district subset of the Alliance Districts that are among the lowest performing in the state – saw overall improvements in the percentage of students scoring at/above Proficient in Grades 5 and 8, as well as an increase in the percentage of students at/above Goal in Grade 8.

CMT/CAPT SCIENCE 2014												
	Grade 5				Grade 8				Grade 10			
	% At/Above Proficient		% At/Above Goal		% At/Above Proficient		% At/Above Goal		% At/Above Proficient		% At/Above Goal	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
Statewide	82	83	63	60	76	78	61	63	82	79	49	47
Commissioner's Network	40	44	19	17	33	39	16	22	43	45	11	11
Ed Reform Alliance Districts	57	59	31	27	46	48	27	28	50	47	16	16
Special Education	45	52	22	23	37	42	20	23	45	42	15	14
Hispanic	64	67	37	34	53	55	33	34	60	55	21	19
African American	59	62	32	29	52	53	31	30	58	51	17	15

### Legacy Tests

In the spring of 2014, the CSDE offered districts a choice between administering the state legacy tests (CMT/CAPT) or the Smarter Balanced Field Test in English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics. About 10 percent of districts chose to administer the legacy tests; therefore, the CSDE is unable to release statewide CMT or CAPT results in mathematics, reading or writing content areas.

Of the five Alliance Districts that chose to administer the CMT or CAPT legacy tests in ELA and math, two districts saw impressive gains in grades tested. Bloomfield not only showed improvement on the Grade 8 CMT in math, writing and science, but also showed strong gains in CAPT scores in every subject area and improvement opportunity. Windham also showed strong gains in the percentage of students at/above Proficient in math, reading and writing in Grade 10, and gains in the percentage of students at/above Goal in both reading and writing.

Nearly 90 percent of districts chose to administer the Smarter Balanced field test, which was taken by students in Grades 3-8 and 11. In these districts, over 1 million Smarter Balanced tests were completed by Connecticut students, and over 250,000 unique students were tested. Over 12 million tests were completed by more than 4 million students across the consortium states.

Participation in the Field Test helps ensure that test questions are accurate and fair for all students. The field test also gave Connecticut students, teachers, and schools an opportunity to experience the assessment under real-world conditions in preparation for the spring 2015 test administration.

All 2014 CMT and CAPT results can be found at [www.ctreports.com](http://www.ctreports.com).

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