

Dear District Administrators (DA's in TIDE),

Please see below for two recent updates regarding Connecticut Science assessments.

Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment Materials

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the American Institutes for Research (AIR) is beginning distribution of Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment (CTAS) materials for the 2018 – 19 school year. As a result, you may receive a package(s) containing CTAS printed materials the week of October 29, 2018. The CSDE and AIR have allocated different quantities of the CTAS materials to districts based on student participation in the CTAS Field Test in the spring of 2018. These CTAS materials include:

- Performance Tasks,
- Resource Packets, and
- Student Score Worksheets.

When districts receive the materials, District Administrators should determine a plan for sharing, organizing, and storing these materials with Teachers Administering the Alternate Assessment (TEAs) and plan to preserve and redistribute the Resource Packets and Performance Tasks in subsequent school years.

Digital copies of the CTAS materials will also be posted to the Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal the week of October 29, 2018. These materials can be downloaded, printed, and maintained as the district determines. These digital copies can also be used with eligible students who use assistive technology and require the manipulation of a PDF (i.e. Smartboard, switches, software programs). The CTAS is a non-secure test that is administered to eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities in Grades 5, 8, and 11. The CTAS was designed to be administered by the Trained TEA in a one-to-one test setting with the student during the school year. Once the assessment has been completed, student ratings recorded on the Student Score Worksheet must be entered into the online Data Entry Interface (DEI) by the Trained TEA during the CTAS upload window between **March 25 and June 7, 2019**. Ratings submitted in the DEI during the upload window will be processed for reporting. The [Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment TEA Responsibility Checklist](#), posted to the Connecticut Alternate Assessment Program Portal, describes the administration responsibilities and pre-planning activities suggested for the Trained TEA.

If districts did not receive CTAS materials by November 9, 2018, and have eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities in Grades 5, 8, and 11 who will be participating in the CTAS, please contact the Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Help Desk by email (cthelpdesk@air.org) or by phone (844-202-7583).

NGSS Interim Assessment Webinar

- **When?** Monday, November 5, 2018 from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (EST)
- **Who?** This NGSS Interim Assessment Webinar is intended for district- and school-level users who plan to administer the new NGSS Interim Assessments.

- **What?** CSDE and AIR will discuss the content of the new NGSS Interim Assessments, how to administer the interim assessments, and how to access the assessment data in the AIRWays Reporting System.
- **How?** Register for the webinar by clicking on the following link: [Monday, November 5, 2018 from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. \(EST\)](#)

After registering, a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar will be sent to the email address provided during registration. The webinar will be recorded and posted to the Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Portal.

If you have any questions, please contact the CSDE Student Assessment Office by email (Ctstudentassessment@ct.gov) or by phone (860-713-6860).

CSDE

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Connecticut State Department of Education

Performance Office

Bureau of Student Assessment

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