



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**



TO: Superintendents in Districts Administering CMT/CAPT

FROM: Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Bureau Chief *Ajit Gopalakrishnan*
Performance Office

DATE: March 3, 2014

SUBJECT: Accountability, Assessment Reporting, and Educator Evaluation and Support for 2013-14

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) recently received approval from the U.S. Department of Education (USED) on CSDE's application for Field Test Flexibility for 2013-14. Your district has chosen to continue with administration of the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT)/Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) during 2013-14. This memorandum summarizes the implications for accountability, reporting, and educator evaluation and support for districts that chose to administer the CMT/CAPT. Please note that if your district chose to administer both CMT/CAPT and the Smarter Balanced Field Test, your district is considered as a CMT/CAPT district for accountability purposes.

- Districts will receive CMT/CAPT assessment results as usual via ctreports.com. School and District Performance reports similar to those published last December will also be provided. These reports will include the School Performance Index (SPI) and the District Performance Index (DPI) using CMT/CAPT results; they will also report attainment of SPI/DPI targets in 2013-14 for the school/district overall and for all subgroups and subjects. The 2013-14 SPI and DPI performance targets are available at http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/excel/evalresearch/2014targets_cmt-captonly.xls.
- The USED continues to expect states and local educational agencies to ensure full participation in state assessments (in your case, the CMT/CAPT) at each school for all students, and for each subgroup of students within the school. Furthermore, the CSDE is required to report these participation rates to the public and to the USED. Therefore, districts and schools must make every effort, as in past years, to ensure that all students including those enrolled in district-wide programs and outplaced to approved private special education programs are assessed.
- All school classifications issued in December 2013 will remain in effect until after the Smarter Balanced operational assessment in 2014-15. A few Focus and Turnaround schools may be eligible to exit at the end of 2013-14 if necessary targets are achieved.
- Last October, districts were provided with the choice of opting out of using state test data in educator evaluation during 2013-14. If however your district chose otherwise and sought to incorporate state test data in teacher evaluation during 2013-14, please note that in addition to SPI and DPI data through the performance reports, districts can also receive longitudinal student growth information for students in grades 4 through 8 in reading and mathematics. This growth information is based on Connecticut's vertical scale score growth model. The results are provided at the student level but aggregated at the class level into a metric referred to as "success rates" (i.e., the percent of students attaining their vertical scale growth targets). Districts that desire this

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information will need to provide class rosters at the end of the school year. If you are interested in receiving this information, please contact me at ajit.gopalakrishnan@ct.gov. For additional information about this growth model, please see http://www.csde.state.ct.us/public/cedar/assessment/cmt/resources/misc_cmt/Research_Bulletin_rev_5_12.pdf.

Please note that, per the actions of the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council and the State Board of Education, the CSDE aims to provide additional flexibility regarding the use of state test data in educator evaluation for 2014-15 (pending federal approval). Updates will be provided on this subject in the coming months -- as we receive responses from the U.S. Department of Education.

Thank you.