

**Statewide Proficiency/Mastery Examinations**

Each student enrolled in grades three (3) through six (6) inclusive shall annually take a mastery examination that measures essential and grade-appropriate skills in reading, language arts and mathematics during any month of the school year. Each student enrolled in grade five (5) shall, annually, in March or April take a statewide mastery examination that measures essential and grade-appropriate skills in Science. The State Board of Education shall approve the provision and administration of all mastery examinations. All examinations shall take place during the regular school day.

The school District may not require achievement of a satisfactory score on a mastery examination or any subsequent retest on a component of such examinations as the sole criterion of promotion or graduation.

Special education students shall participate in mastery testing except in the rare case when their planning and placement team determines that participation would be inappropriate and recommends the use of an alternative assessment as specified by the State Board of Education.

All students identified as English Learners (EL) regardless of how long they have been enrolled in school shall take the mastery examination in all content areas (reading/language arts, mathematics, science). Scores on each component of the mastery examination for EL who have been enrolled in school for fewer than twenty (20) school months shall not be used for the purposes of calculating the school performance index.

Limited English proficient students eligible for special education due to significant cognitive impairment must be tested on the CMT Skills Checklist, regardless of the one school year exemption option.

Any alternate assessment, including CMT Skills Checklist and the Connecticut Alternate Assessment, of students enrolled in special education, shall be available only to those students with significant cognitive disabilities. Students with significant cognitive disabilities in grades three (3) through six (6) shall be assessed with the Connecticut Alternate Assessment in English/language arts and mathematics. In science, eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities will be assessed with the CMT Skills Checklist in grade five (5).

In compliance with federal law, out-of-level testing is not an option for students enrolled in special education.

Legal Reference:        Connecticut General Statutes §10-14n  
                                 Connecticut General Statutes §10-14o  
                                 Connecticut General Statutes §10-14p  
                                 Connecticut General Statutes §10-14q  
                                 Public Act 15-238  
                                 Pub. L. § 107-110  
                                 Title I, 34 CFR, Part 200  
                                 34 CFR, Part 200

Policy adopted:        September 9, 1991  
Policy revised:        February 11, 2015  
Policy revised:        May 10, 2017