

## **Instruction**

### **Statewide Proficiency/Mastery Examinations**

Unless exempted according to state criteria, each student enrolled in grades three through six inclusive shall annually take a mastery examination in reading, writing and mathematics. Each student enrolled in grade five shall annually take a state-wide 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.

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 English learners (ELs) including recently arrived, defined as those students whose initial entry date in a U.S. school is less than two years (24 months) prior to test administration are required to participate in all content areas of the state summative assessment.

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 English learners who have been enrolled in school in this state or another state for fewer than twenty (20) school months shall not be used for the purposes of calculating the school accountability index as defined in C.G.S. 10-223e.

Scores from year 1 is ready to serve as a baseline for academic growth in Year 2. In year 3, the scores of recently arrived ELs will be included toward academic achievement and academic growth indicators in Connecticut's accountability system.

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

Any alternate assessment, including the CTAA, of students enrolled in special education, shall be available only to those students with significant cognitive disabilities. Students with significant cognitive disabilities in grades 3 through 6 shall be assessed with the Connecticut Alternate Assessment. In compliance with federal law, out-of-level testing is not an option for students enrolled in special education.

The school district may not require achievement of a satisfactory score on a mastery examination, or any subsequent re-test on a component of such examinations as the sole criterion of promotion.

(cf. 5121 - Examination/Grading/Rating)  
(cf.6162.31 Test Exclusion)

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Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-14n Statewide mastery (as amended by PA 03-174 and PA 03-168, PA 13-207 and Section 115 of PA 14-217 and PA 15-238, and PA 17-14)

10-14o Compensatory education grant. Financial statement of expenditures.

10-14p Reports by local and regional boards re instructional improvement and student progress.

10-14q Exceptions, (As amended by PA 01-205)

10-223e Statewide education accountability plan

PA 15-238 An Act Concerning Students Assessments

34 CFR, Part 200 regulations appearing in Federal Register, 9/13/06

Policy adopted: April 26, 2001  
Policy revised: February 28, 2002  
Policy revised: March 18, 2004  
Policy revised: June 14, 2007  
Policy revised: June 26, 2014  
Policy revised: April 23, 2015  
Policy revised: December 17, 2015  
Policy revised: December 21, 2017

MARLBOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Marlborough, Connecticut