



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Directors of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services

FROM: Isabelina Rodriguez, Interim Chief Academic Officer 

DATE: April 28, 2017

SUBJECT: Changes to Individualized Education Program Page 9, *STATE AND DISTRICT TESTING AND ACCOMMODATIONS*

This memo provides districts and educational facilities with information regarding updates to Page 9 of the individualized education program (IEP) and changes to statewide assessment. The following changes to statewide testing are reflected in the revision:

- Science testing will now occur with either a Standard Science Assessment or an Alternate Science Assessment.
- Beginning in 2018, testing for both the Standard and Alternate Science Assessments will be eliminated in Grade 10 and provided in Grade 11.
- The addition of the English Language Proficiency (ELP) Assessment for students with an IEP who are also English Learners (ELs). This is required in Grades K-12 or until the student is removed from EL status.
- The importance of using the [Learner Characteristic Inventory \(LCI\)](#) to qualify a student to be eligible to take alternate assessments, including those given within the district.

This memo provides you with the revised page 9 of the IEP as well as the instructions on how to complete this page as it will appear in the [CSDE Bureau of Special Education IEP Manual and Forms](#). You may begin using this new page 9 in all planning and placement teams (PPTs) immediately, but it **MUST** be revised in a student's IEP prior to the administration of all statewide assessments in the spring of 2018.

If the student will be taking an Alternate Assessment and the Learner Characteristic Inventory (LCI) has not yet been completed, the district must hold a PPT to discuss and complete the LCI prior to completing the revised page 9 of the IEP. Likewise, a PPT must be held for a student who is an EL and is receiving special education services to discuss the requirement to take the ELP Assessment and the possible need for accommodations prior to completing the revised page 9.

If the only changes are the name of the assessment and/or the grade in which the assessment is being administered, a district may make a **technical edit** on the student's IEP (if it will be in effect during the beginning of March 2018) by checking the appropriate box under Statewide Assessments on the revised page 9 of the IEP. A copy of the revised page 9 must be replaced in the existing IEP and a copy of that page must be sent to the parents.

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Any IEP that is written for 2017-18 requires the use of the new page 9, ED620 Revised April 2017, either in paper format or a new electronic page 9 when available from your IEP vendor. This revised page 9 must be in the current IEP prior to the 2018 statewide testing window. For those districts and programs that use an IEP vendor to create their IEP, CSDE has communicated the changes to page 9 of the IEP. Contact your IEP vendor to determine when they will update their system to reflect the new page 9.

Considerations When Exiting Students from Special Education

When a PPT has determined that a student with a disability no longer requires specialized instruction and therefore does not meet eligibility requirements for special education services, the PPT must consider whether a referral to a 504 Team is needed in order to provide the student with appropriate accommodations to participate in statewide and districtwide assessments.

Students in PSIS who attend Out-of-State Facilities or In-State Non-Approved Facilities

Connecticut public school districts are responsible to test students in the Public School Information System (PSIS) who are enrolled in out-of-state facilities or who are enrolled in state non-approved schools. Please refer to guidance in the [*Students in PSIS who attend Out-of-State Facilities or In-State Non-Approved Facilities*](#) resource for information on how to administer the Standard Science Assessment, the Alternate Science Assessment, the Smarter Balanced Assessment, and the Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA). It is also required that districts test those students in Grade 11 who are enrolled in out-of-state or in-state non-approved programs with the Connecticut SAT School Day assessment. Information about these procedures will be provided by College Board.

If you have additional questions, please contact the following CSDE staff:

Joe Amenta – 860-713-6855 or **Janet Stuck** – 860-713-6837 – Performance Office/ Student Assessment – State standard and alternate assessments and accommodation requests

Gail Mangs – 860-713-6938 or **Patricia Anderson** – 860-713-6923 – Academic Office/Special Education – IEP questions