



THE CONNECTICUT ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE TEST PROGRAM

What Grade 10 Students and Their Parents Should Know About the CAPT

Since 1994, parents and educators have used the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) to measure the achievement levels of Grade 10 students throughout the state. The CAPT assesses critical knowledge and skills needed for success in advanced studies and the workplace. CAPT results are reported on high school transcripts so that prospective colleges and employers can review them.

In March, high school sophomores will participate in approximately eight hours of testing, which generally occur over a one- to two-week period. The results of this testing will show how well students are achieving compared to the expectations set for all Grade 10 Connecticut public school students.

The CAPT was developed with the help of educators throughout the state and serves to guide high school education in Connecticut. Specifically, the CAPT was designed to:

- establish high performance standards for all high school sophomores on a range of skills and knowledge;
- emphasize the application of skills and knowledge in realistic contexts;
- promote better instruction and curriculum by providing information on academic strengths and weaknesses of

students, schools, and districts;
and

- increase the accountability for Connecticut's educational system at the high school level.

The CAPT assesses student achievement in four major content areas: Writing Across the Disciplines, Reading Across the Disciplines, Mathematics, and Science. The knowledge and skills tested in these areas are established by the Connecticut curriculum frameworks.

WRITING ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES

Students' writing skills are assessed in two ways. The **Interdisciplinary Writing (IW)** test requires students to use knowledge and skills gained through many disciplines. On the IW test, students must read two articles representing different perspectives on a controversial issue and use the information to write a persuasive essay. Students are required to complete two separate IW tests based on two different issues.

The **Editing & Revising** test requires students to read samples of student writing and answer multiple-choice questions to correct common errors in organization, word choice, syntax, capitalization, punctuation, usage, and spelling.

READING ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES

Students' reading skills are assessed using two tests. The **Response to Literature** test requires students to read a short story and respond to four essay questions. This test measures how well students demonstrate understanding, interpret meaning, make connections, and evaluate the way the author wrote the story.

The **Reading for Information** test requires students to read three, short, nonfiction articles and answer multiple-choice and short-answer questions. This test measures how well students understand information and can evaluate the way authors wrote the articles.

MATHEMATICS

The **Mathematics** test assesses how well students can compute and estimate, solve problems, and communicate their understanding. The test focuses on applying important mathematical concepts to solve problems that are relevant to everyday life. The test includes a combination of grid-in and short-answer questions from four different content strands.

SCIENCE

The **Science** test assesses students' understanding of important scientific concepts from five different content strands, as well as their abilities to apply those concepts to real-world issues. In addition, there is a major focus on scientific inquiry and using scientific reasoning to solve problems. The test includes a combination of multiple-choice and short-answer questions, which may require students to create graphs.

RESULTS

Results of the CAPT are reported to students and their families, as well as schools and districts. All students receive a full report of their results on each subtest. The results are also noted on permanent school records and high school transcripts. Summary results for schools, districts, and the state are publicly reported. These results allow teachers to identify academic strengths and weaknesses to better plan instruction and support for students.

While there is no passing score on the CAPT, Goal standards have been set for Reading Across the Disciplines, Writing Across the Disciplines, Mathematics, and Science. Students who meet the state Goal in a content area receive a Certificate of Mastery. If Grade 10 students do not meet the Goal in one or more areas, they may retest in Grades 11 and 12.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

By law, all local and regional boards of education are required to have graduation requirements for high school students. While the CAPT cannot be used as the sole criterion for graduation, results from the test must be included when districts are assessing whether students have the basic skills and knowledge necessary for graduation.



**For general information about the
Connecticut Academic
Performance Test,
we invite you to visit our website at
www.ct.gov/sde.
Click on Student Assessment**

Connecticut State Department of Education
Division of Assessment,
Research and Technology