



THE CONNECTICUT MASTERY TEST

What Every Parent/Guardian Should Know About the CMT for Grades 3 Through 8

THE CONNECTICUT MASTERY TEST (CMT)

provides an accurate assessment of how well students statewide are reaching the standards of achievement that have been established by the State Board of Education in reading, writing, mathematics and science. Since 1985, Connecticut's public school students in grades 4, 6 and 8 have been required to participate in the Connecticut Mastery Test. Since 2006, all students enrolled in grades 3 through 8, inclusive, are required to participate in this statewide testing. Beginning in 2008, students in grades 5 and 8 are also required to participate in a science test. Your child will participate in approximately seven hours of CMT testing during the month of March.

The CMT was developed with the help of Connecticut educators and serves to guide education in Connecticut. The CMT was designed to:

- establish high expectations for the education of Connecticut students;

ONGOING COMMUNICATION

between you and your child's school is important to his or her success. Always feel free to refer questions about your child's CMT scores and educational needs to his or her teachers or principal.

- identify students who need extra help in reading, writing, mathematics and science;
- help schools and teachers identify weaknesses in their curriculum and improve instruction in those areas;
- help you and your child's teachers monitor your child's achievement from grades 3 through 8; and
- improve the accountability of the state's educational system.

THE FOURTH GENERATION CMT ASSESSES

essential reading, writing, mathematics and science skills. The skills tested on the CMT are identified in the Connecticut curriculum frameworks.

READING SKILLS ARE ASSESSED USING TWO SUBTESTS.

The **Degrees of Reading Power® (DRP)** subtest assesses your child's ability to understand what has been read. Students read nonfiction text with missing words and then choose appropriate words to complete the text.

The **Reading Comprehension** subtest assesses your child's understanding of both fiction and nonfiction passages through multiple-choice questions and open-ended questions that require written responses.

WRITING SKILLS ARE ASSESSED USING TWO SUBTESTS.

The **Direct Assessment of Writing** subtest requires your child to draft a piece of writing in response to a given topic.

The **Editing & Revising** subtest requires your child to answer multiple-choice questions to show how well they can edit and revise a written passage.

THE MATHEMATICS test measures performance on a range of skills and concepts expected to be mastered by the time of testing. The Mathematics test has multiple-choice, open-ended and grid-in questions. On grid-in questions (grades 5 through 8 only), the student must write the correct numeric answer in boxes and then fill in the matching bubble below each box.

THE SCIENCE test (grades 5 and 8 only) assesses your child's understanding of important scientific concepts from life, earth and physical science strands, as well as the ability 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 Science test includes a combination of multiple-choice and open-ended questions.

YOU WILL RECEIVE AN INDIVIDUAL STUDENT REPORT

that explains how well your child did on the CMT. With the information provided in this report, you can compare your child's results to the standards that have been set at his or her grade level for reading, writing, mathematics and science (grades 5 and 8 only).

YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD be successful on the CMT by ensuring your child: attends school regularly, receives a good night's sleep, eats a nutritious breakfast and maintains a positive attitude about the CMT.

RESULTS OF THE CMT are reported to schools and to parents/guardians. These results will allow you and your child's teacher to identify academic strengths and weaknesses. This information will help teachers plan instruction and help you identify the kind of support you might provide.

WHILE THERE IS NO PASSING SCORE ON THE CMT, standards in reading, writing, mathematics and science have been set at all six grade levels. These standards are challenging, yet reasonable, expectations for students. Please note that CMT results, while often considered, cannot be used as the sole criterion for promotion to the next grade.



For general information about the Connecticut Mastery Test we invite you to visit our website at:

www.ct.gov/sde

**Connecticut State Department of Education
Division of Assessment, Research, and Technology
Bureau of Student Assessment**