



CONNECTICUT MASTERY TEST - SCIENCE

What Grade 5 and 8 Students and their Parents or Guardians Should Know About the CMT Science

BACKGROUND

In March, Grade 5 and 8 students across the state will participate in the Connecticut Mastery Performance Test (CMT) in Science. The CMT Science serves as the statewide science assessment program required by state and federal legislation. All Grade 5 and 8 students enrolled in a public school must participate in the test.

The CMT Science has been in place since 2008 and was developed with the input of educators throughout the state. The purpose of this assessment is to measure student achievement in science and support improvements in Connecticut's science education programs by:

- establishing high performance standards for students on a range of skills and knowledge;
- emphasizing the application of skills and knowledge in realistic contexts;
- providing useful information to inform decisions about curriculum and instruction; and
- increasing accountability at the elementary and middle school levels.

OVERVIEW OF THE TESTS

The CMT Science assesses concepts and skills that have been established by the *Connecticut Core Science Curriculum Framework: Expected Performances for Grades 3-8* (CSDE, 2004). The CMT Science assesses students' understanding of scientific concepts from life science, physical science and Earth science. There is also a major focus on scientific inquiry, literacy and numeracy skills applied to real-world issues. The CMT Science at Grade 5 includes 36 multiple-choice and three short, written-response questions and is administered in one 65-minute test session. The CMT Science at Grade 8 includes 45 multiple-choice and three short, written-response questions and is administered in one 70-minute test session.

RESULTS FROM THE TESTS

Students receive a full report of their results. While there is no passing score on the CMT Science, five performance levels have been established: Below Basic, Basic, Proficient, Goal and Advanced. Summary results focused on the Proficient and Goal levels are also reported for schools, districts, and the state. These results allow educators to identify academic strengths and weaknesses to better plan instructional supports for students. It is important to note that the CMT Science is only one indicator of student performance. The results should be used along with other information, such as results from classroom assignments and other assessments, when making educational decisions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the CMT Science, go to www.ct.gov/sde. Click on the Student Assessment link and then CMT/CAPT Science.