

## **Instruction**

### **Statewide Mastery Examinations**

Statewide mastery examinations measure whether or not a student has achieved essential, grade-appropriate skills in reading, writing, mathematics and science. Mastery examinations are provided by and administered under the supervision of the State Board of Education. Each student in grades three through eight inclusive and grade eleven shall take the statewide mastery examinations for reading, writing and mathematics. For the 2018-19 school year and each school year thereafter, each student in grades five, eight, and eleven shall also take the statewide mastery examination for science.

For the 2017-18 school year student scores on each component of the statewide eleventh grade mastery test may be included on the permanent record and transcripts of students. For the 2018-19 school year and each school year thereafter, the scores on each component of the statewide eleventh grade mastery test may be included on the permanent record and transcripts of students. Students who meet or exceed the statewide mastery goal on any component of the mastery examination, shall have a certification of such mastery made on the permanent record and transcript and be provided a certificate of mastery for each such component.

The school district may not require achievement of a satisfactory score on the statewide mastery examination or any subsequent retest on a component of such examinations as the sole criterion of promotion or graduation.

Special education students shall participate in mastery testing except in the rare case when the planning and placement team (PPT) for an individual student determines that an alternate assessment as specified by the State Board of Education is appropriate.

All English language learners (ELL) including recently arrived ELL students, 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 language learners regardless of how long they have been enrolled in the school shall take the mastery examination in all content areas (reading/language arts, mathematics, science). Scores on each component of the mastery examination for ELLs who have been enrolled 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 under Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-223e.

Students who receive special education, have a 504 plan, or are English language learners may be entitled to accommodations when taking statewide mastery examinations. Such accommodations will be provided in a manner consistent with law. Mastery examinations shall be offered in the most common native language of students who are English language learners taking such mastery examinations and any additional native languages of such students when mastery examinations in such native languages are developed and have been approved by the United States Department of Education.

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(cf.5121-Examination/Grading/Rating)  
(cf. 6146 - Graduation Requirements)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-14n Mastery Examination

10-14q Exceptions

Policy adopted: June 10, 2003  
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NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
New Milford, Connecticut