

Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment Updates and Feedback

Abe Krisst, Bureau Chief

Ray Martin, CPFA Coordinator
Performance Office



Connecticut State Department of Education

Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment (CPFA)

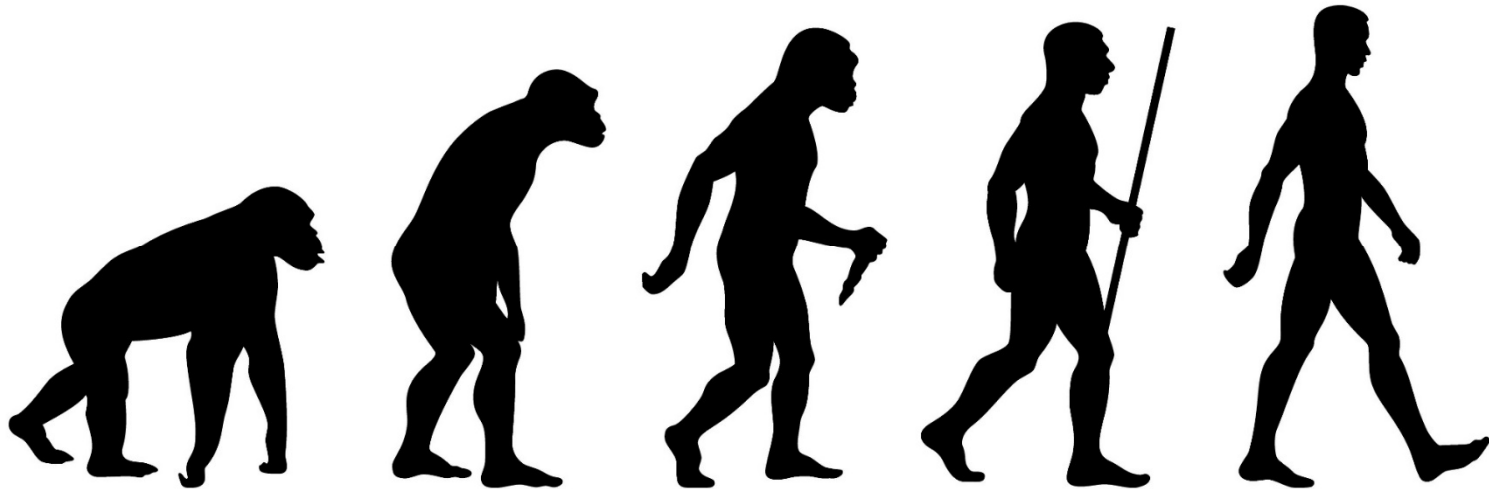
A Brief History:

- 1990: The CPFA Launches in the 1990-91 School Year
- 1999: Second Generation adopted
- 2009: Third Generation adopted
- 2015: CPFA results added to Connecticut's Next Generation Accountability System (Indicator 11)
- 2016: Increased Flexibility for Assessing High School students
- 2018: Third Generation Test Administrator's Manual (TAM) Updated
- 2019: Field Visits by Department Staff (Spring)
- 2019: TAM Updated to Clarify Expectations and Address Emerging Challenges



Connecticut State Department of Education

Updating and Refining the CPFA



Instead of updating the CPFA and Test Administrator's Manual (TAM) in one step, we are working on evolving the CPFA and TAM over years to allow us to learn and adapt as we go.

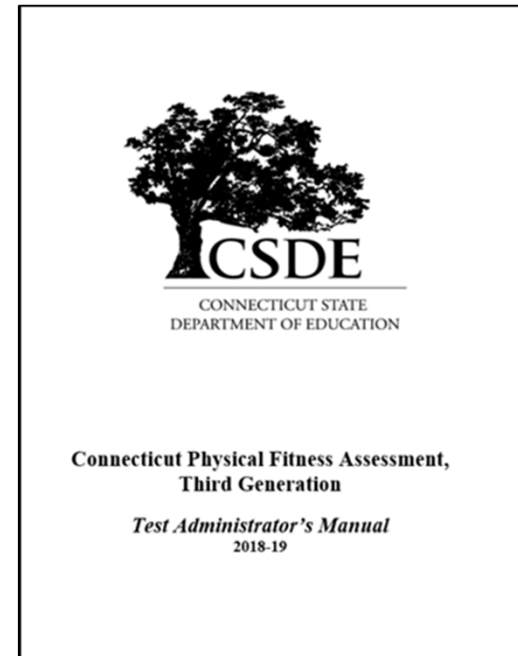
Connecticut State Department of Education

The First Step

In the summer of 2018, the CSDE revised the CPFA manual and made technical changes to the manual.

Notable changes included:

- elimination of set test windows;
- explicit expectation that students in tested grades would be assessed; and
- alignment of medically exempt definition with other state assessments.



Connecticut State Department of Education

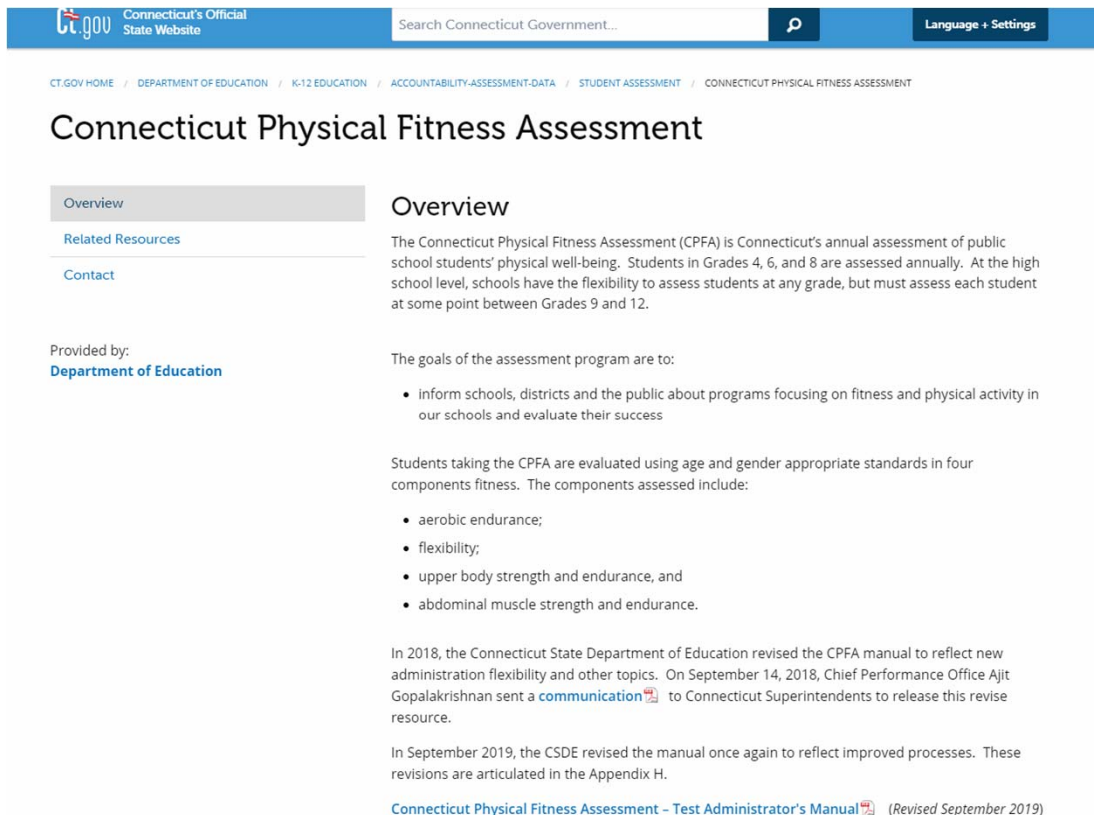
Notable 2018-19 Changes

2009 TAM		2018-19 TAM
Set test windows for students in Grades 4, 6 and 8.	⇒	Testing allowed throughout the year as it fits into schools' curriculum/schedules.
Assessment for students taking PE during test window. (<i>Note</i> : Inclusion of CPFA participation in Accountability system made testing all students in these grades a requirement.)	⇒	Explicit state expectation that students in tested grades would be assessed.
No real standards for a student being reported as medically exempt and mixed students with disabilities in with medically exempt.	⇒	Aligned medically exempt definition with other state assessments (i.e., unable to attend school). Added new category of Alternate Assessment for students who are unable to access the standard assessment due to a disability, but are being assessed by alternate standards/alternate test items that are consistent with his/her capabilities.



Connecticut State Department of Education

The Help Site:



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Connecticut State Department of Education website. It includes the logo, the text "Connecticut's Official State Website", a search bar, and a "Language + Settings" button. Below the navigation bar is a breadcrumb trail: "CT.GOV HOME / DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION / K-12 EDUCATION / ACCOUNTABILITY-ASSESSMENT-DATA / STUDENT ASSESSMENT / CONNECTICUT PHYSICAL FITNESS ASSESSMENT". The main heading is "Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment". On the left, there is a sidebar with "Overview" selected, "Related Resources", and "Contact". The main content area has an "Overview" section with the following text: "The Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment (CPFA) is Connecticut's annual assessment of public school students' physical well-being. Students in Grades 4, 6, and 8 are assessed annually. At the high school level, schools have the flexibility to assess students at any grade, but must assess each student at some point between Grades 9 and 12." Below this is a list of goals: "The goals of the assessment program are to: • inform schools, districts and the public about programs focusing on fitness and physical activity in our schools and evaluate their success". This is followed by a paragraph about evaluation: "Students taking the CPFA are evaluated using age and gender appropriate standards in four components fitness. The components assessed include: • aerobic endurance; • flexibility; • upper body strength and endurance, and • abdominal muscle strength and endurance." The final paragraph states: "In 2018, the Connecticut State Department of Education revised the CPFA manual to reflect new administration flexibility and other topics. On September 14, 2018, Chief Performance Office Ajit Gopalakrishnan sent a communication to Connecticut Superintendents to release this revise resource." The last sentence reads: "In September 2019, the CSDE revised the manual once again to reflect improved processes. These revisions are articulated in the Appendix H." At the bottom of the content area is a link: "Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment - Test Administrator's Manual (Revised September 2019)".

Three easy ways to get there:

1. Enter in the url:
<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Physical-Education/Physical-Education---Test-Administrators-Manual>
2. Go to CSDE Website (<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE>) and use the search field (on left) and enter CPFA.
3. Just use the internet search engine of your liking (Google, Bing, Yahoo, DuckDuckGo) to search "CT Physical Fitness Test".



Connecticut State Department of Education

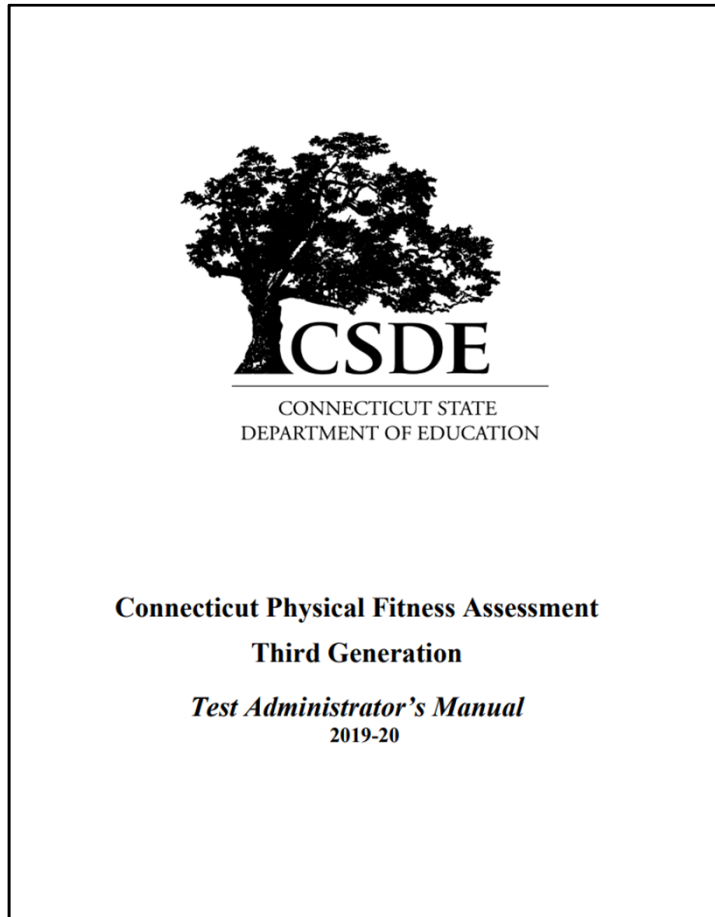
On the Road

In the spring of 2019, CSDE staff visited a number of schools to observe CPFA administration and learn from practitioners in the field.

These visits focused on improving our understanding of how the CPFA is administered in the field, the challenges experienced by educators, and areas of concern/confusion.



Updated Test Administrator's Manual



The Updated Test Administrator's Manual has a number of changes. These include:

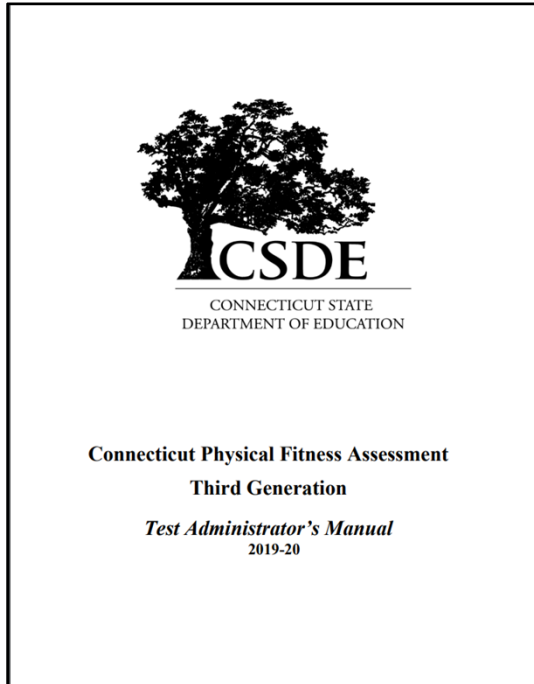
- requirement of the maintenance of documentation;
- designation of an Official Administration of Record;
- clarification on the treatment of corrections in the P.A.C.E.R., Push-up and Curl-Up Test Items; and
- general updates.

Note: 2019-20 Changes are detailed and referenced in Appendix H (the last page of the manual).



Updated Test Administrator's Manual

Maintenance of Documentation

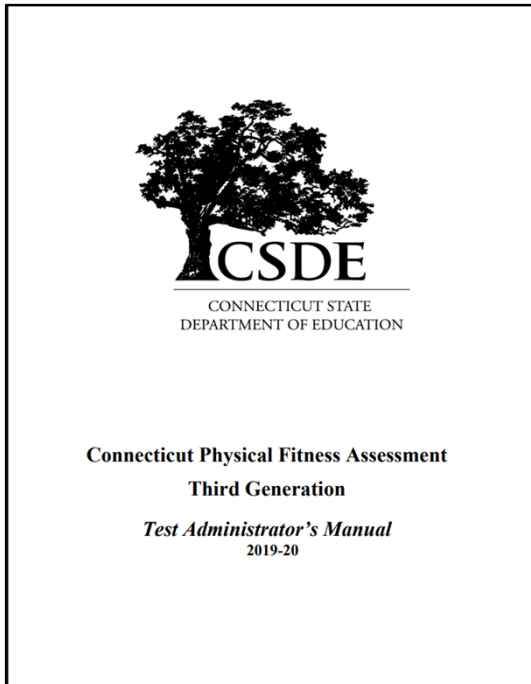


As the CPFA is part of Connecticut's Next Generation Accountability System, the need to be transparent and able to validate results is key. For this reason, the CSDE added additional language around the need to maintain documentation and the fact that the CSDE reserves the right to review said documentation to validate data submitted to the Department. Specifically in two areas:

- reported Test Item results; and
- students reported as Medically Exempt or receiving an Alternate Assessment.

Updated Test Administrator's Manual

Official Administration of Record

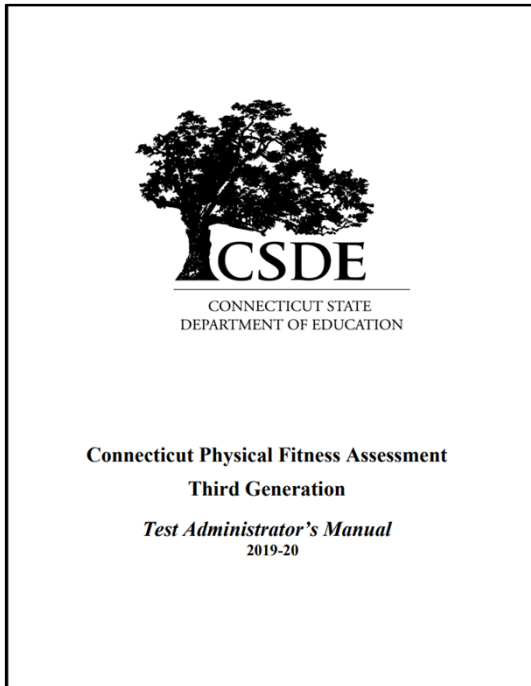


While districts and schools are free to administer the CPFA as many times as they deem appropriate, they must designate a single administration as the Official Administration of Record and must report the results of this administration to the CSDE.

This one administration of record approach brings the CPFA into alignment with other state assessments, and clarifies existing CSDE policy against “testing until they pass” and/or “choose the best result” practices.

Updated Test Administrator's Manual

Official Administration of Record



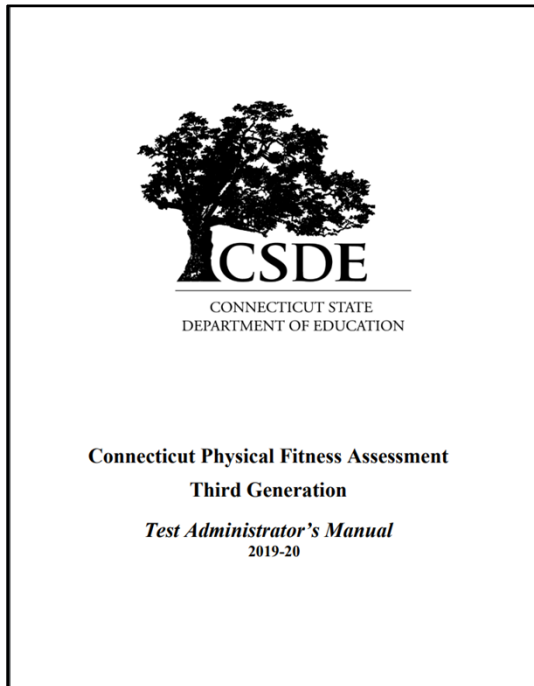
While there is the requirement for an Official Administration, the CPFA maintains a significant degree of flexibility. Specifically:

- The policy doesn't require a single day be designated as the assessment day. Schools and districts can choose a period for the official administration to take place.
- Schools may provide makeup assessments for students who were temporarily unable to be assessed during the official assessment period, or who enrolled in a school after the official assessment.
- Schools are not required to assess all classes at the same time. Schools have the flexibility to time the administration in the best way for the school.



Updated Test Administrator's Manual

Form Corrections/Uncompleted Laps



2009 & 2018-19 Manuals

Were inconsistent and contradictory on the counting of repetitions with form corrections and uncompleted laps in P.A.C.E.R. as successfully completed.



2019-20 Update

Clarifies that **ONLY** properly performed repetitions and completed laps are to be counted for CPFA results.



Updated Test Administrator's Manual

Feedback on Test Administrator Manual Changes



- Questions?
- Concerns?

Connecticut State Department of Education

Questions for the Room

- The P.A.C.E.R. standards for lower grades were labeled as “experimental” when adopted in 2009. They have not been updated.
 - Should they be?
 - If so, how?
- A number of educators and administrators have raised the potential of the Department collecting student-level CPFA results.
 - Do you believe this is feasible at your level?
 - Would you support such a collection?



Connecticut State Department of Education

Goals for 2019-20

- Work to address how the accountability system counts severely disabled students and those that are outplaced
- Improving Communication with the field
- Continuing site visits
- Perform documentation reviews



Connecticut State Department of Education

Keep Up-To-Date

The CPFA is now part of the CSDE's comprehensive assessment efforts and updates on the CPFA are now included in our Student Assessment Newsletter (SAN) that comes out periodically.

Home Get Started Resources FAQs Supported Browsers Register for email updates

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM PORTAL

Students & Families

Smarter Balanced Assessment

NGSS Assessment

Alternate

Recent Announcements

- The Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) will be down for maintenance beginning September 11th and will return online September 19th.
Added August 27, 2019
- The Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form replaced the Learner Characteristics Inventory during the 2019-20 school year and will be used by Connecticut Teachers Administering the Alternate Assessment and Planning and Placement Teams to determine eligibility for student participation in Connecticut's Alternate Assessment System. To get more information, please access the [General Information & Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form portal page](#).
Added August 21, 2019

Welcome!

Welcome to the Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal. This site provides access to resources for the Smarter Balanced Assessments in Mathematics and English Language Arts, the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessment, the Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA), and the Connecticut Alternate Science Assessment (CTAS).

Important Dates

To sign up to receive the SAN, go to <https://ct.portal.airast.org/> and click the “Register for Email Updates” button in the upper right. Note: these emails will include topics on all assessments, not just the CPFA.



CT Physical Fitness Assessment

Questions:

Questions about:	CSDE Contacts
CPFA, Data Collection and Reporting	Raymond Martin Phone: 860-713-6876 E-Mail: Raymond.Martin@ct.gov
CPFA and Other State Summative Assessments	Abe Krisst Phone: 860-713-6894 E-Mail: Abe.Krisst@ct.gov

