

DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Standardized Test Administration

Summary of Testing (Updated September, 2007)

Name of Test	Purpose of the Test	Assessment Focus Categories	Test Time Required	When Given	Use of the Results
AP = Advanced Placement Test	Tests students in Gr. 11 and 12 enrolled in courses that teach AP standardized curriculum. An independently constructed subject test sold by the College Board, which charges students a fee.	Art History, Biology, Calculus AB/BC, Chemistry, Comp. Science, English Lit/Comp, European History, French, US Govt/Pol, Music Theory, Physics B, Psychology, Spanish, Statistics, US History	3 hours per test for each course taken	Second and third weeks in May	Based upon scores, many colleges offer either credit, advanced placement, or both. Also, good scores help students to stand out in the admissions process. Scores are also analyzed to determine the effectiveness of AP courses.
CAPT = Connecticut Academic Performance Test	The CAPT is a statewide achievement test for all 10th graders. Currently Harcourt Measurement, Inc. constructs and scores the test.	Reading and writing (across disciplines), plus math, and science (w/ lab activity late Feb-March)	95-125 min per test for 9 sessions	During the month of March	Data informs educational decisions about curriculum, instruction, and group or individual student needs, as well as provides comparisons to other Connecticut districts. Results also used to meet graduation performance requirements in reading, writing, and mathematics.
CMT = Connecticut Mastery Tests	The CMT is a statewide mastery test for all students in grades 3 thru 8 (2006). Currently Measurement, Inc. constructs and scores the	Writing sample, Math, Reading Comprehension, DRP, Editing/Revising - Science will be added in March, 2008	45-75 min per test for 7 sessions	During the month of March	Data informs educational decisions about curriculum, instruction, placement, and group or individual student needs, as well as provides comparisons to other Connecticut districts.

NAEP = National Assessment of Educational Progress	National test that is selectively administered around the US	Math only for 8th graders - done annually for numerous years	2 hours on one day	Late February	Federal Department of Education uses results for comparative studies of US states as well as with foreign countries. We do not get our results back.
NCLB = No Child Left Behind	This is NOT a test. It is the name given to the Federal legislation that mandates standardized testing in grades 3 to 8 and 10 in every state.	Connecticut meets the NCLB requirements through the use of the CAPT and CMT subtests for mathematics and reading in Grades 3 thru 8, and 10. (see above).	No added time required. See CAPT and CMT, above.	No added time required. See CAPT and CMT, above.	In addition to Connecticut's uses of CAPT/CMT test data, the Federal Department of Education reports reading and math data to show whether or not each school reaches a target score for improvement known as "adequate yearly progress," or AYP. Improvement must be shown by the whole school as well as by student subgroups, such as special needs, limited English proficiency, and low income.
OLSAT = Otis-Lennon School Ability Test - 8th Edition	Nationally used test for students in grades 2 and 4 (as well as referred students in Gr. 1-9 new to Darien Public Schools) which measures those thinking and reasoning abilities most relevant to school achievement.	Verbal (comprehension, reasoning); Non-verbal (pictorial reasoning, figural reasoning, quantitative reasoning)	Gr. 2 requires 3 days, 20 min/per day and Gr. 4 requires 1 day, 60 min	Referrals tested in late fall; whole groups tested late February	Results will be used determine eligibility for the district's gifted program (Idea).
PSAT = Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test	Independently constructed achievement test sold by College Board, which charges students a fee.	Verbal and Math reasoning for 10th and 11th graders	3 hours on one day	3rd Tues. in October	Provides a "practice" for SAT test-taking, plus serves as a database for determining merit scholars. Often predicts performance on the SAT.
SAT I = Scholastic Assessment Test	Independently constructed achievement test sold by College Board, which charges students a fee.	Writing, Critical Reading, and Mathematics	4 hours on each day	Saturdays 7 times per year	Relates to potential for successful performance in college and is intended to supplement the secondary school record and other information.
SAT II = Scholastic Assessment Tests of subject area content	Independently constructed achievement test sold by College Board, which charges students a fee.	Tests are offered in 18 different subjects, most commonly including math, American history, biology, and writing	1 hour each (up to 3 in one day)	Saturdays 6 times per year	Provides information to colleges about achievement in specific subject areas. Students can determine how they compare to peers, nationally.