

Remote Interim Assessment FAQ for Parents/Guardians

During the pandemic, students in Connecticut public schools have been provided an opportunity to take an interim test remotely. The information presented in this FAQ is for the parents/guardians of students who will be participating in the interim assessments remotely.

1. What kind of tests will my child need to take while at home and how do these tests benefit my child?

During the school year, your child may regularly take a science, English language arts (ELA), or math interim assessment. Interim assessments are short, low-stakes tests that have from 6-18 questions on each interim. Normally, these brief interim assessments are given to students in the classroom, but due to the circumstances in 2021, students are able to take these short tests while they are learning remotely. These tests allow teachers to continue identifying gaps in student understanding even when students are away from the classroom. The tests also help teachers target their instruction to support students in the areas with which they need help.

2. What can I do to help prepare my child for any science, ELA, or math interim assessment they need to take while learning remotely?

The following steps can help ensure your child is prepared to take a remote test:

- Work with your child's teacher and school technology coordinator to understand the plan for interim remote testing.
- Work with your child's teacher to understand the technology required for any remote tests. For example, your child's computer will need the following hardware:
 - Microphone
 - Speakers
 - Webcam
 - Any necessary assistive technology your child may require such as third-party software for text-to-speech or screen readers.
- Work with the teacher/school technology coordinator to test that each of these functions properly before the day of the test.
- Provide a quiet space with minimal distractions while taking a remote test. Students should be mindful their teacher can see them and the area around/behind them.
- Parents should not guide their child or encourage their child to seek answers elsewhere.

3. Can my child take a Practice Test remotely before taking a science, ELA, or math interim assessment remotely?

Consider working with your child's teacher to arrange an opportunity to practice testing remotely before the actual science, ELA or math interim assessment is administered.

4. How can my child check their hardware to ensure it is working properly before testing?

Students should work with their teacher and/or school technology coordinator to run a diagnostic check located at

https://demo.tds.cambiumast.com/systemdiagnostic/pages/default.aspx?c=Connecticut_PT

to be certain their hardware is functioning. From this site, the student will be able to run a series of audio, video, and connectivity checks to let them know if their audio, microphone, webcam, video playback, text-to-speech, and connectivity are working properly. If the student encounters a problem with their hardware, they should contact their teacher to help troubleshoot the problem.

5. Where can I get more information about the testing system that my child will be using to take a science, ELA, or math interim assessment while at home?

The remote testing system is the same testing system that students use to take in-person interim and summative assessments but with additional features that allow teachers to administer assessments remotely. For more information refer to the *Remote Testing Quick Guide for Students and Parents/Guardians*.

6. Will my child have access to someone at the school if they have a question during a remote test?

If your child has questions or needs teacher assistance while taking a remote test, they can request a one-to-one conversation or a one-to-one screen sharing session with their teacher through the remote testing system by virtually “raising their hand.” The teacher will be able to see the request for assistance and can start a video conference or screen sharing session. Students can also send a chat message to their teacher at any time during the science, ELA, or math interim assessment.

7. What happens if my child needs a break during a remote test?

There is a 20-minute pause rule set for a science, ELA, or math interim assessment. If a student pauses the test for more than 20 minutes, they will need to re-login into the system and will not be able to return to the questions that they previously answered. If a student pauses on a page that contains multiple questions, he or she will be able to return to the same page and respond to the remaining questions even after the 20-minute pause.

8. What happens to my child’s test and their answers if our internet connection is lost during the science, ELA, or math interim assessment?

If your child loses their internet connection while taking a remote test, the test is paused, and the teacher is notified. Your child’s responses are automatically saved up to the point the connection was lost. When the internet connection resumes, your child will need to sign in again and follow the same steps they completed the first time they signed in to continue taking the test.

9. What device is my child allowed to have while testing? What devices are they not allowed?

Typically, the only device your student needs during testing is their computer or testing device. Assessments that allow the use of a calculator will have embedded calculators within the actual test. Check with your child's teacher for additional information on the devices that are allowed. For every test, your child should have scratch paper and a pencil to take notes or work on problems.

10. My child uses accommodations while testing in the classroom. Will these accommodations be available during a remote testing session?

Supports and accommodations for students with an Individualized Education Program or Section 504 Plan are available during a remote testing session. Consult with your child's teacher if you have specific questions.

11. My child has a disability. How will they be able to take a test at home if they require someone to read the test questions out loud? Require additional time? Or need other accommodations?

Almost all accommodations that are offered in an in-person environment can be also be offered at home during a remote test session. However, some accommodations, such as a human reader or scribe, must be provided in-person. For additional information regarding available accommodations, contact your child's teacher or school.

12. Will anyone be observing my child during the test? Can I stay with my child in the room while they take the remote test?

The connection between student and teacher is strictly controlled. The only person who will see the student is their teacher. Cambium Assessment and the Connecticut State Department of Education will not have access to audio or video, and no personal information will be shared.

Parents/guardians may need to assist younger students with the log in and functionality check process, but parents/guardians are discouraged from assisting, prompting, or providing context to students while the student is actively taking a science, ELA, or math interim assessment and is strictly prohibited.