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SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

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GOVERNOR

July 27, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, District Test Coordinators
FROM: Arsenio Romero, Ph.D., Secretary of Education DS
AR
RE: **SY 2023-24 Assessment Program Information**

Using data as a basis for information gathering and decision making is a core component of New Mexico's Multi-Layered System of Supports. The Public Education Department encourages school leaders to identify local instructional priorities and to design a local, balanced assessment system (e.g., formative assessment strategies, progress monitoring, universal screening, interim/benchmarking, summative) aligned to those priorities. While local education agencies have the flexibility to include additional assessments beyond state-supported and federally-required assessments, this memorandum provides clarifications and guidance for the upcoming academic year.

Assessment Administration Requirements

LEAs are responsible for correctly assigning and administering required state assessments to all students. The State does not have an allowance for a parent or guardian to "opt-out" of required state assessments on behalf of their students. Additionally, New Mexico has designated itself as a technology-forward, digital testing state. Only students with a paper testing accommodation identified within an IEP should be administered an assessment on paper. Additionally, 6.10.7 NMAC: Standardized Testing Procedures and Requirements now includes stronger guidelines for proctored test administration for students being instructed fully online and/or in hybrid programs.

Annual District Test Coordinator and Technology Coordinator Designation

Each year, district and charter school leaders must formally designate the primary and secondary District Test Coordinator and Technology Coordinator per 6.10.7 NMAC to oversee official Assessment Bureau business and to gain access to secure test management portals. Superintendents and charter school administrators with new DTCs can access the designation form [here](#).

2023-24 Assessment Calendar and Training Schedule

The 2023-24 assessment schedule is available at [Assessment Schedule 2023-24](#). Additionally, a preliminary [Fall 2023 DTC Training Schedule](#) is available.

Content Standards and Technical Assessment Information

All state assessments are aligned to current New Mexico-adopted content standards.

Assessment	State-adopted Content Standards
ACCESS and Alternate-ACCESS for ELLs	WIDA's English Language Development Standards
New Mexico Measures of Student Success and Achievement (MSSA)	Common Core State Standards (CCSS) Language Arts and Mathematics
SAT School Day	
Spanish Language Arts Assessments	Spanish Language Arts Standards
Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alternate Assessment	Essential Elements in Language Arts , Mathematics , and Science
New Mexico Assessment of Science Readiness (NM-ASR)	New Mexico STEM Ready! Science Standards

Additional information including fact sheets, test blueprints, state-adopted Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) and scale scores, accommodations information, and practice test resources can be found within the Educator Resources sections of PED's [Assessment website](#).

New Partnerships & Supports for LEAs

Assessment & Data Literacy Professional Development

All districts and charter schools have access to assessment and data literacy training, including onsite staff training focusing on analyzing formative and summative assessment results. PED is partnering with current assessment program vendors and other national providers to develop a menu of assessment and data literacy support for schools. We highly encourage schools to leverage these PED-provided supports.

Lexiles and Quantiles

New Mexico PED is partnering with MetaMetrics to provide Lexile and Quantile measures on individual student reports for 2023 MSSA summative assessment results in language arts and math as an added support for classroom teachers. These measures are also utilized on the state's K-2 early literacy assessments. A Lexile measure indicates the difficulty of materials a student can read and understand while a Quantile measure shows the mathematical skills a student has mastered and in which skills they need additional instruction. PED will provide additional resources and professional development opportunities in using these measures throughout the upcoming school year.

Student Well-being & Competency Survey

This social & emotional learning (SEL) survey is required for all students in grades 3-12 and optional for classroom teachers, school staff, and families. It is scheduled to be administered this fall during a 4-week window from November 15 - December 15, and again in the spring (exact dates TBD). This survey provides students an opportunity to reflect on their social-emotional abilities and well-being. The teacher, staff, and family surveys will offer additional feedback on school climate and SEL supports.

Screeners and Progress Monitoring Tools

Early Childhood Observation Tool

The New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) requires all preschool students to be assessed using the ECOT observation tool within the first 30 instructional days. [ECOT training](#) and the [refresher course](#) are available in the Canvas learning management systems as self-paced course modules. New preschool teachers must complete the new staff course and returning teachers must complete the refresher course before assessing students within the first 30 days of instruction. **PED is no longer requiring the use of ECOT for kindergarten students.** Please direct questions regarding this ECED requirement Cassandra Carrasco at cassandra.carrasco@ped.nm.gov.

WIDA Screener for English Learner Identification

The WIDA Screener for Kindergarten and the WIDA Screener for grades 1-12 are the only PED-approved English language proficiency screening assessments. These screening assessments are part of the English learner identification process for K-12th grade students entering public education for the first time. Please contact Vanessa Vander Galien at vanessa.vandergalien@ped.nm.gov with questions on the ELL identification process and the WIDA Screeners.

Dyslexia Screening for First Grade

Per Senate Bill 22-13-31 NMSA 1978, all first-grade students must be screened for dyslexia by the 40th day of school and within two weeks of initial enrollment for students new to New Mexico. The screeners remain the same as last year:

- Teach Me to Read (English screener, printable PDF)
- Lexercise (English screener; student responses are entered online by the teacher; one subtest has a printable PDF)
- Istation's ISIP (Spanish screener; same as ISIP for first grade online)
- IDEL (Spanish screener; printable PDF)

Screener training and printable materials are available in Canvas as self-paced course modules. Please contact Christy Quesada at christine.quesada@ped.nm.gov for questions related to dyslexia screening requirements.

Gifted Screening for All Students by Third Grade

Per 6.31.3 NMAC: Gifted and Talented Students, all New Mexico students should be screened for gifted by the end of the third grade. Each LEA should establish procedures for this universal screening process. Additional information regarding various gifted screeners and assessments can be obtained by contacting Christopher Vian at christopher.vian@ped.nm.gov. For LEAs in need of training on gifted assessment, screening, and identification processes, please reach out to Christopher Vian at the above email address.

K-2 Early Literacy & Early Math Progress Monitoring

Istation's Indicators of Progress early literacy in English and Spanish language arts in grades K-2 and math assessments in grades K-2 will continue to be required statewide for students in grades K-2. **Starting in the 2023-24SY, the ISIP early math is required statewide for students in grades K-2.** Both assessments are available to LEAs at no cost. Schools are highly encouraged to progress monitor those students scoring at Level 1 and Level 2.

3-8 Interim Assessment for Mathematics and Language Arts

All districts and charter schools serving grades 3-8 will continue to administer either a locally procured or the [state-provided interim assessment](#) (iMSSA) at the beginning-of-year, middle-of-year, and end-of-year windows for the purposes of benchmarking student progress. This interim data must be tied to the NM School DASH Annual and 90-Day Plan for all schools. PED Assessment will not require LEAs to submit summary interim assessment reports at the end of the year.

Summative Federally Required ESSA Assessments

Districts and charter schools must follow [PED test assignment guidelines](#) in order to meet federal assessment participation rates for student populations.

ACCESS for ELLs

The WIDA ACCESS for English Language Learners meets New Mexico's federal requirement to provide an annual assessment of academic English language proficiency. It is annually administered to identified English learners in grades K-12. ACCESS for ELLs measures a student's overall proficiency and their progress toward English proficiency in four domains: Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing. The test is based on WIDA's English Language Development Standards for K-12. As reminder, the ACCESS exit criteria had been lowered per this [memorandum](#).

NM-MSSA

The New Mexico Measures of Student Success and Achievement is New Mexico's statewide summative assessment for mathematics and language arts and is administered at the end of grades 3-8. The NM-MSSA is designed to measure students' proficiency in grade-level New Mexico Common Core State Standards.

NM-ASR

The New Mexico Assessment of Science Readiness is New Mexico's statewide summative assessment for science. The standards require the integration of Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts to explain phenomena and solve problems. The NM-ASR is designed to measure students' proficiency in the New Mexico STEM Ready! Science Standards in grade bands 5, 8, and 11.

SAT School Day

The SAT School Day is New Mexico's statewide summative assessment for mathematics and language arts in high school. The College Board has transitioned the [SAT School Day](#) into a fully computerized, multistage adaptive test, allowing the assessment to present test items based on the student's ability level. This change will allow for more accurate measurement of student skills in a shorter and more flexible time frame.

Assessments in Spanish

Assessments are available in Spanish for NM-MSSA and NM-ASR for qualifying English learners. Additionally, high school ELs have the option to take the SBA Spanish Language Arts assessment in lieu of SAT School Day reading and writing.

Dynamic Learning Maps & Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

A small population of students with disabilities identified as students with the most significant cognitive disabilities are unable to participate in general education assessments. For this population of students, the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who are also ELs, maximize access to annual federal testing requirements. These assessments are aligned to alternate academic standards that are unique to this population. The student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) must indicate placement in alternate assessments for math, ELA, and science rather than the SAT, MSSA, ASR, and general ACCESS for ELLs assessments.

National Assessment of Educational Progress

The beginning of the 2023/2024 school year marks a main NAEP year. School districts identified for the NAEP sample will be notified by early fall. NAEP will be administered to students in grades 4, 8 and 12 nationally in mathematics and reading and grade 8 in science. This fall, PED will host a special Nation's Report Card Rally to provide free assessment literacy and professional development around NAEP's alignment to state-adopted standards and to strengthen preparation for NAEP-selected schools. The NAEP content frameworks are available [here](#).

Other Curricular Assessments

Avant STAMP

All students enrolled in a state-funded Spanish bilingual multicultural education program who have not already tested and achieved Spanish language proficiency are required to complete the Avant STAMP assessment once per year to measure growth towards Spanish language proficiency. Achieving proficiency on the Avant STAMP and specific coursework requirements are one option for a student to earn the State Seal of Bilingualism and Biliteracy (SSBB). For a complete list of testable languages, please visit the Avant STAMP resources page. For further information on options to earn the SSBB, please contact Dr. Elena Valdez at elena.valdez@ped.nm.gov.

Advanced Placement

The New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) strongly believes that all students should have equal access to the full benefit of Advanced Placement® (AP) coursework. AP students do college-level work in high school, and if they score a 3 or higher on the AP exam, they can earn college credit. NMPED will again cover a large portion of the exam fee for eligible students under the College Board's AP Exam Fee Reduction guidelines, resulting in a total cost to students of \$3 per exam. The testing window for AP exams opens Monday, May 6, 2024, and runs through Friday, May 17, 2024. More information and deadlines concerning the NM Fee Reduction Program are available at www.APNewMexico.org. For more information on Advanced Placement, please contact Melissa DeLaurentis at melissa.delarentis@ped.nm.gov.

PSAT/NMSQT

The New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) will pay for all New Mexico public school 10th-grade students to take the [PSAT/NMSQT](#) (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) assessment during the testing window from October 2-31, 2023. Participation in the PSAT/NMSQT is voluntary, and each school and district can determine participation. To take advantage of this opportunity and place your order, go to the [PSAT/NMSQT coordinator/ordering site](#). For more information on PSAT/NMSQT testing, please contact Melissa DeLaurentis at melissa.delarentis@ped.nm.gov.

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For general questions about assessments or the current 2023-24 assessment program requirements, please contact the appropriate Assessment Bureau [team member](#) or send inquiries to PED.Assessment@ped.nm.gov.

Cc: Amanda DeBell, Deputy Secretary of Teaching, Learning and Innovation
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