



## FAQs 2017-18 NMTEACH Teacher Summative Report

### General Information

**Question:** Please post the chart that shows the two different steps for teachers.

**Answer:**

	Student Achievement	Classroom Observation Domains 2 and 3	Planning and Preparation and Professionalism Domains 1 and 4	Surveys	Teacher Attendance
<b>Step 1:</b> Teachers who have no student achievement data in the last 3 years	0% 0 points	50% 100 points	40% 80 points	5% 10 points	5% 10 points
<b>Step 2:</b> Teachers with 1-3 years of student achievement data (STAM) who teach courses related to STAM	35% 70 points	40% 80 points	15% 30 points	5% 10 points	5% 10 points

**Question:** How can teachers access summative reports from previous years?

**Answer:** A copy of the summative report should be provided to the teacher. Additionally, a signed copy of the summative report should reside in the teacher's personnel file.

**Question:** Can administrators have a review period before summative reports are released to teachers?

**Answer:** Yes, there will be a review period for superintendents and charter school directors before summative reports are released to teachers.

**Question:** Can we have access to school wide evaluations for comparison?

**Answer:** This is a district level decision.

**Question:** How can districts access summative reports for teachers that did not work in their district in the year prior?

**Answer:** The NMTEACH Summative Report is a personnel document and is the property of the teacher and the employer who issued it. The teacher may request a copy of the report from their previous district and provide it to the current one.

**Question:** Who are teachers compared to on the graph on page one of the summative report?

**Answer:** The graph represents the median score for all teachers in the state and their respective district.

## **Student Achievement**

**Question:** What happens if a student doesn't have a peer group (e.g. no one in the state has the same past performance)?

**Answer:** All students who have a current student achievement and prior achievement scores will have a peer group.

**Question:** Are academic peer groups for EOCs based on PARCC or EOC assessments?

**Answer:** Academic peer groups are determined by the most recent previous standardized assessment taken by the student.

**Question:** If this is the first EOC a student is taking, is a teacher's Value-Added Score (VAS) for EOCs based on percentage of passing, overall percentage or individual growth?

**Answer:** Value-Added is a growth model – percentage of passing and overall percentage is not part of the calculation. The VAS for an EOC is determined by the average of the student's Value Added Scores.

**Question:** If PED has the capacity via STARS data extract, why can't teachers tied to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in a district that has Istation as a mandate (K-3+, Reads to Lead), have Istation added into their student achievement data?

**Answer:** Over the past three evaluation cycles, K- 2 teachers were associated with the DIBELS data and third grade teachers were only associated with PARCC/SBA data. Moving forward we will explore associating third grade teachers with Istation.

**Question:** If a teacher teaches middle school and gives an EOC assessment, what data (points/cut score) is used to determine the teacher's VAS?

**Answer:** The teacher VAS is determined by the average VAS of the students who take the EOC exam. The students' VAS comes from prior performance plus current performance on the EOC.

**Question:** Science growth SBA is offered to 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders, is three years growth expected? Does the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade teacher get any credit on their evaluation?

**Answer:** The expected/predicted growth of all students depends on their most previous performance on standardized tests. Beginning in 2015-16 school year, the Value Added Model used for high school science was changed so only 11<sup>th</sup> grade teachers were associated with their 11<sup>th</sup> grade students' science test scores.

**Question:** Could a student count at two different school districts for one snap shot (i.e. student is in Artesia for part of 80 day and Hobbs for the other part)?

**Answer:** A student cannot be counted at two different school districts in the same snap shot per current STARS business rules.

**Question:** How is the academic peer group for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders created?

**Answer:** The academic peer group for *all* students is determined by identifying students of the same grade level who scored exactly the same in the previous standardized test – for third graders that would most likely be the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Istation scores.

**Question:** Will DIBELS be on the summative report this year?

**Answer:** Yes, DIBELS will be included for the school years 2015 – 16.

**Question:** Is there a crosswalk for DIBELS and Istation?

**Answer:** Yes, please access technical materials regarding Istation at <http://www.istation.com/STUDIES>

**Question:** How will Istation growth be calculated?

**Answer:** Istation growth is calculated by using the beginning of year and mid-year assessments as prior achievement to determine a student's predicted growth.

**Question:** How are peer groups determined for Kindergarten students?

**Answer:** The academic peer group for *all* students is determined by identifying students of the same grade level who scored exactly the same in the previous standardized test. Istation growth is calculated by using the beginning of year (BOY) and mid-year assessments (MOY) as prior achievement to determine a student's predicted growth.

**Question:** For schools who give multiple Istation assessments, which test occurrences are counted as the official BOY, MOY, and end of year (EOY) test occurrences?

**Answer:** For NMTEACH, BOY Istation is the first test occurrence in August/September; MOY Istation; MOY Istation is the first test occurrence in January and EOY Istation is the last test occurrence in May.

**Question:** How is VAS calculated for kindergarten?

**Answer:** Istation growth is calculated by using the beginning of year and mid-year assessments as prior achievement to determine a student's predicted growth.

**Question:** Should EOC assessments be given for semester long classes?

**Answer:** Yes, if an EOC exam is available for the course.

**Question:** What is the formula that converts VAS to points earned?

**Answer:** Because of the way individual VAS is distributed, the overall VAS is converted into a percentile using the cumulative density function (CDF) of a standard normal distribution. The percentile is then used to weight the possible STAM points to find the STAM points earned.

$$STAM\ weight = VAS\ Percentile = CDF(VAS)$$

**Question:** How is SBA science in 4th grade factored into a teacher's evaluation?

**Answer:** Student growth on SBA science test is factored into a teachers' VAS, not student proficiency; this is accomplished by comparing students' science scores with their academic peers. In this case the academic peer group is identified using 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading and math scores.

**Question:** How is growth calculated for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students?

**Answer:** The expected/predicted growth of all students is calculated by determining predicted growth based on previous performance on standardized tests and then comparing the predicted growth to performance on the current assessment.

**Question:** Is there a way to determine student's VAS scores at the beginning of the year?

**Answer:** No, a Value Added Score (VAS) is determined by comparing prior achievement to current achievement. Certainly, prior achievement of students should be used in teacher planning.

**Question:** If a student is new to a district how is the peer group determined?

**Answer:** The academic peer group for **all** students is determined by identifying students of the same grade level who scored exactly the same in the previous standardized test.

**Question:** If a student completes both English and Spanish Istation which data is used for the summative report?

**Answer:** Both data sets are used to calculate the students' achievement scores. For more information go to <http://www.istation.com/NewMexico/FAQ>

**Question:** On the summative report, is there a chart that shows the difference between VAS scores in growth and time? (i.e. what does .25 mean vs. .65 maybe in terms of months of growth?)

**Answer:** Currently we do not provide a legend that translates VAS into months of learning, however we plan to release a translation in the near future.

**Question:** Will SLA/SBA count on the summative report?

**Answer:** Yes, the SLA/SBA has and will continue to be counted for student achievement on the summative report.

**Question:** What is the formula for calculating growth?

**Answer:** Student growth for a specific test is equal to the difference between the students' actual score and their expected score. For additional information on the formula used to calculate expected score please refer to the current *NMTEACH Technical Guide*.

**Question:** How are academic peer groups determined for EOC assessments?

**Answer:** The academic peer group for **all** students is determined by identifying students of the same grade level who scored exactly the same in the previous standardized test.

**Question:** Why aren't there passing scores for all EOC exams?

**Answer:** Passing scores were developed for EOC assessments that count as an Alternate Demonstration of Competence for high school graduation. In the near future the state will be reporting state wide averages and standard deviations for all EOCs. Additionally we are exploring the feasibility of establishing empirical based cut scores for all EOCs.

**Question:** Do both regular education and special education teachers receive the scores for one particular student?

**Answer:** Yes, both teachers are eligible to receive credit provided the district associates both teachers with the student in a course number that is linked to a student assessment. Up to three teachers can be linked to a student with the correct student/course combination.

**Question:** My school teaches one semester of Earth Science and one semester of physics; what EOC exam do I administer and when?

**Answer:** EOC exams are to be administered at the end of the course.

**Question:** Does a student's academic peer group change from assessment to assessment? (i.e. student A takes EOCs and PARCC are the peer groups different for each assessment?)

**Answer:** Yes, academic peer groups are specific to the assessment the student has taken.

**Question:** Are there different EOCs for elementary schools that are K-6 vs K-8?

**Answer:** No, please refer go to the webpage for more detailed information. [Click here](#) for a list of EOC exams.

**Question:** On the scatterplot does the center line (vertical) change every year or is it preset?

**Answer:** The vertical center line represents typical prior achievement for given test in a given year.

**Question:** If there is an available state EOC assessment, should the exam be administered to all classes with the matching course name? (i.e. Animal Science is a new exam, the HS offers the course, should the EOC for Animal Science be administered?)

**Answer:** Course name is not the determining identifier for EOCs. If the course number matches the EOC in the Course-Assessment Linkage Document, then the EOC exam should be administered.

**Question:** How are courses linked to assessments? What are the criteria for a course to be linked to a certain test?

**Answer:** The linkages between assessments and courses are reviewed by the Assessment Accountability Advisory Committee (AAAC).

**Question:** Who is responsible for the alignment of state EOCs with PARCC and Common Core State Standards?

**Answer:** For information regarding EOC exam Blueprints [click here](#).

**Question:** Where can I review EOC Blue Prints?

**Answer:** All information on EOCs can be accessed at this link, [http://ped.state.nm.us/ped/Assessment\\_EOC.html](http://ped.state.nm.us/ped/Assessment_EOC.html)

**Question:** If a student took the PARCC in another state and then the next year takes the PARCC in New Mexico, does the score from the previous state count?

**Answer:** No, the data used is only from assessment the student completed in New Mexico.

## **Observations**

**Question:** What is the minimum number of observations required for a teacher?

**Answer:** One observation is needed to generate a summative report. If no extenuating circumstances exist, districts and charters should adhere to the number of observations identified in their observation plan.

**Question:** Do districts and charter schools still have flexibility to conduct only one observation for highly effective and exemplary teachers?

**Answer:** Yes, that flexibility is allowed.

## **Multiple Measures**

**Question:** Is professional development reported as an absence for teacher attendance?

**Answer:** Professional development should not be reported as an absence.

**Question:** How are survey scores determined?

**Answer:** To compute the points earned on the summative evaluation for surveys, NMTEACH calculates the average total score and then divides by the number of possible survey points (50 for students and 40 for parents) to get the final weight.