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HOWIE MORALES, PHD  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM  
GOVERNOR

January 10, 2019

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Public School Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, and District Test Coordinators

**FROM:**  Howie Morales, PhD, Lieutenant Governor

**RE:** **Transitioning Away from the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)**

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The U.S. Department of Education, under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), requires that all students be given a summative assessment in English language arts (ELA), mathematics, and science.

In her press conference on January 3, 2019, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham affirmed that she wanted to ensure New Mexico does not lose federal dollars as the Public Education Department (PED) transitions to a new summative ELA and mathematics assessment in 2019-20 SY.

**Executive Orders 2019-001 and 2019-002**

The Governor's policy regarding the summative assessment is outlined in two Executive Orders available on the Governor's Office website.

PED shall begin the process of transitioning away from PARCC testing and adopting new ratings and assessments that meaningfully evaluate the areas where students are struggling. Additionally, PED shall pursue ratings and assessments that will decrease unnecessary pressure on students and teachers to provide more time for instruction and conserve resources.

### **Spring 2019 Summative Transition Assessment**

This Spring, the *New Mexico Standards Based Assessment of Mathematics and English Language Arts* will be administered. This transition assessment will follow a new test blueprint, and will be comprised of subsets of linking items, allowing for a shorter assessment, while maintaining the comparability of the longitudinal scale and five performance levels.

Districts and charter school staff should be assured that the Spring 2019 *New Mexico Standards Based Assessment of Mathematics and English Language Arts* will be:

- aligned to the adopted New Mexico Common Core State Standards.
- 1 to 1.5 hours shorter per subject area, reducing overall testing time by 30%.
- comparable to prior years' results, with five reporting categories.
- delivered on the same testing platform and administered during the April 22 - May 10, 2019 scheduled window.

### **Training for the Spring 2019 Transition Assessment**

District Test Coordinators (DTCs) and administrators should register to attend one of the Spring 2019 Transition Assessment Webinars listed below. Webinars will focus on the administration procedures and resources for the Spring 2019 *New Mexico Standards Based Assessment of Mathematics and English Language Arts*. Resources for the transition assessment will start becoming available on the Assessment Bureau website by Monday, January 14, 2019.

Monday, January 14, 2019, 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM MT

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7674697111058454786>

Tuesday, January 15, 2019, 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM MT (Repeat)

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2899828173906325250>

Wednesday, January 16, 2019, 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM MT (Repeat)

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3285964562953356034>

### **Development of the 2019-20 SY Summative Assessment**

Moving forward, educators, parents, and recognized professionals and experts in the field of large-scale assessments, will be assembled to help guide the development of a new state summative assessment to be implemented for the 2019-20 school year. Additional feedback from stakeholders is needed in order to ensure development of an assessment system that is in compliance with ESSA and provides stakeholders with valid and reliable results.

For questions regarding this transition, please contact Lynn Vásquez, Director of Assessment, at [Lynn.Vasquez@state.nm.us](mailto:Lynn.Vasquez@state.nm.us).

cc: Timothy Hand, PhD, Acting Deputy Secretary  
Lynn Vásquez, Director of Assessment  
Brian Laurent, Director of Accountability  
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