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February 10, 2019

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Superintendents and Charter School Administrators  
**FROM:** Gwen Perea Warniment, PhD, Deputy Secretary  
**RE:** Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Updates

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Given the complexity right now wherein the new administration is navigating a changing landscape, we wanted to clarify three policies immediately affecting schools and districts.

**Accuroster**

In order to comply with our current, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) State Plan, we need to proceed with existing Accuroster procedures. While the department and leadership team seek to submit amendments to our current ESSA Plan, until we hear back on the status on such proposed amendments, we want to ensure we comply with federal law.

In the meantime, as we work diligently towards the revisions due March 1<sup>st</sup>, if you have recommendations for how Accuroster might be used more effectively in the future, please contact us as soon as possible. Your feedback is welcome and deeply appreciated. We will be in consistent communication with you as requirements evolve in the next month. While current teacher evaluation processes are being reevaluated, we hope to still honor teachers who have been planning to level up in tier. Thank you, in advance for your partnership and patience. If you have any questions specific to Accuroster, please contact Seana Flanagan at [Seana.Flangan@state.nm.us](mailto:Seana.Flangan@state.nm.us).

**Optional Precision CTE Exams**

This is a follow-up communication to the December 12, 2018 Memorandum, [Statewide Adoption of Precision Exams for Career and Technical Education Courses](#), which initially required the use of Precision Exams.

All adopted Precision Exams will now be *optional* for the 2018-19 school year. They have been made available, at no cost, to New Mexico districts and charter schools through June 2019. The complete list of

adopted exams is available at: [https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Precision-Exam-Adoption-List-Enclosure\\_1.16.19.pdf](https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Precision-Exam-Adoption-List-Enclosure_1.16.19.pdf).

This list of 32 state-adopted exams was finalized with engagement of Career and Technical Education CTE directors and educators. Districts and charters are encouraged to utilize these assessments to determine how well the exams align to the identified course linkages.

To view a step-by-step introductory training webinar, please visit:

<https://www.gotostage.com/channel/3170030ed8d94ed4ba1aaae845624432/recording/890b863c390649ff-a662898754f9ca9e/watch?source=CHANNEL>.

Technical questions to support your use of Precision Exams can be addressed by Jake Hinckley at [jhinckley@precisionexams.com](mailto:jhinckley@precisionexams.com). For questions on PED's Precision Exams adoption, please contact the Director of Assessment, Lynn Vásquez, at [Lynn.Vasquez@state.nm.us](mailto:Lynn.Vasquez@state.nm.us) or the Director of the College and Career Readiness Bureau, Elaine Perea, Ph.D., at [Elaine.Perea@state.nm.us](mailto:Elaine.Perea@state.nm.us).

### **Change in Timeline for NM-Assessment of Science Readiness**

This is a follow-up communication to the October 10, 2018 Memorandum, [NM STEM Ready! Science Standards: Assessing Student Outcomes](#). In order to allow districts and charter schools more time to transition curricular resources and instruction to the New Mexico Assessment of Science Readiness (NM-ASR) to measure student outcomes in the NM STEM Ready! Science Standards—in Grades 5, 8, and 11, the PED has decided to **delay implementation of the NM-ASR until spring 2021**. This allows educators the opportunity to implement the newly adopted standards and prepare students to better demonstrate their knowledge on the future NM-ASR.

### **Spring 2019 NM-ASR Science Field Test: April 8-April 26**

The NM-ASR field test is approaching and selected schools have already received notification. Since New Mexico has two years to field test, only grades 5 and 8 who have received field test notification will be required to participate in the field test this spring. The grade 11 field test participation will now be voluntary. PED does encourage all notified schools to participate and has worked with Measured Progress to be able to provide participating schools with preliminary NM-ASR results following the spring field test. If you have not been pre-identified but want to volunteer your school site(s) to participate for the field test in order to receive preliminary data, please contact [ped.assessment@state.nm.us](mailto:ped.assessment@state.nm.us) to see if your school site would qualify. For questions about the NM STEM-Ready! Science Standards and Course Maps, please contact Yanira Vazquez at [Yanira.Vazquez@state.nm.us](mailto:Yanira.Vazquez@state.nm.us). For other questions related to NM-ASR, please contact Lynn Vásquez at [Lynn.Vasquez@state.nm.us](mailto:Lynn.Vasquez@state.nm.us).

If you have any questions about any of the above items, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at: [Gwen.Warniment@state.nm.us](mailto:Gwen.Warniment@state.nm.us) or 505.699.2059.

/GPW

cc: Karen Trujillo, PhD, Secretary Designate  
Kara Bobroff, Deputy Secretary  
Timothy Hand, PhD, Deputy Secretary  
Katarina Sandoval, Deputy Secretary  
Daniel Manzano, Chief of Staff