STATE OF NEW MEXICO
PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
300 DON GASPAR
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501-2786
Telephone (505) 827-5800
www.ped.state.nm.us

RYAN STEWART, EDLD
SECRETARY-DESIGNATE OF EDUCATION

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

September 10, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, District Test Coordinators

FROM: Gwen Perea Warniment, PhD, Deputy Secretary of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment

RE: **High School Graduation Requirements as a Menu of Options**

Graduation Requirements

To graduate from a New Mexico public high school, students must meet both coursework and assessment (demonstration of competency) requirements.

Currently, New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) establishes the **standards based assessment**[1] in mathematics, language arts, and science as the primary demonstration of competency for graduation and requires LEAs to submit a waiver to use an alternative demonstration of competency (ADC).

Graduation Cohorts

When a student enters grade 9, his or her graduation cohort is determined. No matter how many years a student takes to graduate, the graduation requirements are those in place when the student entered grade 9.

[1] The standards based assessment is the proficiency assessment required under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), i.e., PARCC until fall 2018, the Transition Assessment in spring 2019, and college entrance exam to be determined beginning in spring 2020 for language arts, and the SBA Science until fall 2018 for science, and the New Mexico Assessment of Science Readiness (NM-ASR) beginning in spring 2021 (statewide field test in spring 2020).

Cohort 2020	Cohort 2021	Cohort 2022	Cohort 2023
Entered grade 9 in SY 2016-17	Entered grade 9 in SY 2017-18	Entered grade 9 in SY 2018-19	Entered grade 9 in SY 2019-20
6.19.7 NMAC 2009	6.19.7 NMAC 2009	6.19.7 NMAC 2018	6.19.7 NMAC 2018

Removal of Primary and Alternative Demonstrations of Competency

Coursework requirements will remain the same, but assessment requirements are being modified so local educational agencies (LEAs) can now choose from a **menu of options** that enable students to demonstrate postsecondary and/or workforce readiness in order to graduate. This eliminates the primary and alternate structures. ADC waivers are no longer required by PED.

Menu of Options

Starting the 2019-20 SY, under the new system, all students must take the standards based assessments, which are required by federal law, but may demonstrate graduation competency by choosing from a menu of options identified on the enclosed Menu of Options for Cohorts 2020, 2021, and 2022.

Local school boards have the flexibility to make available all or some of the menu options, establish local policies that include additional requirements, or establish higher cut scores.

No waiver is needed to use any of these options, and no re-tests of the standards based assessments are required.

High School Exit Exams to Replace EoCs

Beginning with Cohort 2023, the state assessment option will be comprised of Exit Exams rather than End-of-Course (EoC) exams. A Menu of Options fact sheet for Cohort 2023 will be made available soon. Exit exams will not be operational until spring 2021.

Cut Scores

Students in **all cohorts** who have taken the PARCC (2018 or before) or the Transition Assessment (spring 2019) can demonstrate competency with a score of 725 (Level 3) or above on those assessments. Cut scores for the college entrance exam beginning in spring 2020 will still need to be determined. Cut scores for national assessments and EoCs are provided on graduation fact sheets for each cohort.

Encl.: High School Graduation Fact Sheets for Cohort 2020, 2021, and 2022

cc: Ryan Stewart, EdLD, Secretary-Designate
Tim Hand, PhD, Deputy Secretary
Kara Bobroff, Deputy Secretary
Adán Delgado, Deputy Secretary
Katarina Sandoval, Deputy Secretary
Lynn Vásquez, Director of Assessment
Elaine Perea, PhD, Director of Career and College Readiness
John Sena, Policy Director

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
300 DON GASPAR
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501-2786
Telephone (505) 827-5800
www.ped.state.nm.us

RYAN STEWART, EDLD
SECRETARY-DESIGNATE OF EDUCATION

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

September 10, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, District Test Coordinators

FROM: Gwen Perea Warniment, PhD, Deputy Secretary of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment

RE: 2019–20 Assessment Communication Resources and Start of the Year Support

Student Success Task Force Update
Over the last six months, in response to Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's call to transition away from the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), the PED conducted statewide community feedback and engaged the Student Success Task Force (SSTF). The work of the SSTF has been highlighted in a short video and a one-page accounting of their recommendations is provided here. The full task force report will be made available this fall.

Communication Resources
The PED has created additional resources to assist your schools and communities better understand the federal and state testing requirements as well as the changes to state assessments for the 2019–20 school year. These resources include:

- federal and state testing requirements
- 2019–20 assessments changes for educators
- state summative assessment information for parents
- a series of Fact Sheets for each state assessment program

Please use these as helpful communications tools, as you start the school year. As you are aware, PED is currently undergoing a procurement to start transitioning away from PARCC. We are on track and anticipate being able to provide information and additional resources regarding the selection of our high school grade 11 exam near the end of this month.

Start of the Year Assessment Webinars for School Leaders
In addition to the communications documents, the PED Assessment Bureau will host three repeat webinars for school administrators and district test coordinators to provide an overview of the assessment changes occurring this year and to answer any questions district leaders may have. Registrations links and times are provided below.

September 16, 7:30AM
https://zoom.us/meeting/register/976a3f6c58337c567c24e00bf0acd2b8
September 17, 4:00PM
https://zoom.us/meeting/register/abf9d15cd2ba287dd746f627e8486654
September 18, 4:00PM
https://zoom.us/meeting/register/22e0addb698d7c98cde7dc3c8da9331e

Enc. (2) Task Force Recommendations One-Pager
Communications Resources PDF

cc: Ryan Stewart, EdLD, Secretary-Designate
Kara Bobroff, Deputy Secretary
Tim Hand, PhD, Deputy Secretary
Adán Delgado, Deputy Secretary
Katarina Sandoval, Deputy Secretary
Gwendolyn Perea Warniment, PhD, Deputy Secretary
Lynn Vásquez, Director of Assessment of Student Learning

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
300 DON GASPAR
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501-2786
Telephone (505) 827-5800
www.ped.state.nm.us

KARA BOBROFF
INTERIM SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

August 22, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, and Education Leaders

FROM: Gwendolyn Perea Warniment, PhD, Deputy Secretary

RE: Teacher Observation Tool and Plan Updates

The purpose of this memorandum is to announce the interim plan for providing teacher feedback and observations for the 2019-2020 School Year. The Educator Growth and Development Bureau of the NMPED has made the following changes to the Observation Tool formerly known as NMTEACH, based on feedback gathered during stakeholder engagement events and the work of the Teacher Evaluation Task Force.
Frontline will remain as the default interface for gathering evidence and scoring the domains. The Observation Tool which was formerly known as NMTEACH will be referred to as the NM Interim Feedback & Observation Plan.

While the tool is largely the same, the following four updates will be in place for SY 19-20:

- The Observation Tool which was formerly known as NMTEACH will be referred to as the NM Interim Feedback & Observation Plan.
- The Level of Performance reflected in the observation tool will be changed from 5 levels to 4 levels eliminating Level 5 (Exemplary) in all four domains.
- The Levels of Performance are: Innovating, Applying, Developing, and Not Demonstrating.
- Each teacher shall receive a minimum of one observation during this school year. Best Practice does indicate that Level 1 teachers should receive 2 observations. Districts may add additional observations as they deem necessary.
- Each teacher shall receive three walkthroughs that are focused on feedback around the elements and domains of the rubric.

NMPED is still finalizing the calculation for summative scores but will have this completed by September 9th. As a reminder, training for new administrators is September 11-13, 2019. Please contact Danielle Gothie at katya.gothie@state.nm.us for more information.

GPW/sf/kdg

cc: Kara Bobroff, Interim Secretary
Timothy Hand, Ph.D., Deputy Secretary
Kata Sandoval, Deputy Secretary
Adan Delgado, Deputy Secretary
Seana Flanagan, Director, Educator Quality Division

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
300 DON GASPAR
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501-2786
Telephone (505) 827-5800
www.ped.state.nm.us

KARA BOBROFF
INTERIM SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

August 6, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Charter School Directors, Special Education Directors, Curriculum and Instruction Directors, and District Test Coordinators

FROM: Gwen Perea Warniment, PhD, Deputy Secretary of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment
Katarina Sandoval, Deputy Secretary of Academic Engagement & Student Success

RE: Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alternate Assessment

The purpose of this memorandum is to announce the new alternate achievement assessment for special education students with significant cognitive disabilities. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that all students, including students with the most severe cognitive disabilities, participate in state assessments (ESSA 1111(b)(2)(B)), but ESSA allows states to administer an alternate assessment to these students for whom general state assessments are not appropriate, even with accommodations (ESSA 1111(b)(2)(D)).

New Mexico's alternate assessment is currently the New Mexico Alternate Performance Assessment (NMAPA). The last administration of NMAPA will be fall 2019 for seniors who need to pass the exam as a requirement for graduation. The NMAPA contract is set to expire after the fall administration.

Dynamic Learning Maps Selected to Replace NMAPA

The PED has selected Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) to replace NMAPA. The DLM is a collaboration of 20 states, facilitated by the University of Kansas, working together to design instructional resources and assessments for this special population. A steering committee of state special education directors and district test coordinators (DTCs) helped the PED make this selection.

The DLM assesses student learning in mathematics, English language arts, and science. There will no longer be an alternate assessment in social studies.

Training and Support for Districts and Charter Schools

The PED and DLM will provide a series of trainings to help teachers of this student population, administrators, and district test coordinators smoothly transition to the new alternate assessment. Superintendents are encouraged to allow all teachers who administer the alternate assessment to participate in the "Getting to Know DLM" webinar, with the same content presented at two different times. Registration links are below:

- September 11th at 12:00 p.m. Registration
- September 12th at 4:00 p.m. Registration

Spring 2020 DLM Test Administration

The DLM provides alternate assessments in English language arts, math, and science for students in grades 3–8 and 11. The first test administration of the DLM will occur between March 9 and April 10, 2020. Please refer to the 2019–20 PED Assessment Calendar.

For the spring 2020 administration of DLM, LEAs will not be invoiced.

Instructional Supports

The DLM is aligned to Essential Expectations (EEs), grade-level-specific expectations about what students with the most significant cognitive disabilities should know and be able to do. The EEs are related to the Common Core State Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards. The DLM has a strong classroom instructional component that will assist special education teachers in planning standards-based instruction.

For questions about the DLM assessment, contact Karen Greer at the Assessment Bureau at Karen.Greer@state.nm.us. For questions about students with severe cognitive disabilities, contact Sbicca Brodeur at the Special Education Bureau at Sbicca.Brodeur@state.nm.us. For more information about alternate assessment, please visit the Alternate Assessment page of the PED website.

cc: Kara Bobroff, Interim Secretary
Tim Hand, PhD, Deputy Secretary
Adán Delgado, Deputy Secretary
Deborah Dominguez Clark, Director of Special Education
Lynn Vásquez, Director of Assessment of Student Learning

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
300 DON GASPAR
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501-2786
Telephone (505) 827-5800
www.ped.state.nm.us

KARA BOBROFF
INTERIM SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

August 6, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, District Test Coordinators

FROM: Gwen Perea Warniment, PhD, Deputy Secretary of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment

RE: Istation Training Dates and Locations, Kindergarten Istation Scores

Istation Training Dates and Locations

In order to support districts and charter schools in improving reading outcomes for all New Mexico students, the PED is offering training on the Istation Indicators of Student Progress (ISIP) early literacy assessment during the coming months.

Two "Getting Started with Istation" webinars for new users or those who would like a refresher are offered on August 22 at 3:00 PM and August 28 at 10:00 AM. To register, please visit Getting Started with Istation.

Onsite trainings in Assessment Literacy for All are offered in seven locations around the state in September. Two repeat, three-hour sessions are offered at each location, one from 8:30 to 11:30 AM and one from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.

As a result of this course, educators will be able to

- incorporate and communicate the purpose of ISIP and the value of formative data;
- understand how to use ISIP data alongside the Common Core State Standards;
- attain insight on adequate student growth and set goals to sustain student, classroom, campus, and district gains;
- articulate student goals and needs to any audience: parents, MTSS planning, and making informed instructional decisions at the class, grade, campus, and district levels;
- drive professional learning community dialogues and instructional decisions based on formative data; and

- formulate and execute a plan for implementation with fidelity to maximize student growth.

Objectives will be achieved utilizing engaging hands-on activities, analyzing real-time data, and showcasing success from districts across the state that will share exemplars of campus and parent assessment literacy and plans of action.

To register for these trainings, please go to Istation: Assessment Literacy for All.

Kindergarten Istation Scores

During the 2018–19 school year, PED and Istation analysts became aware that in a few rare cases, some high-achieving kindergarten students were not showing ISIP scores that accurately reflected their growth in literacy. It was determined that this happened because, as students reach a certain level of proficiency, new ISIP subtests may be presented. Some kindergarten students, who were presented with a higher level subtest for the first time, saw a drop in scores as they acclimated to that subtest.

To avoid lower scores in the end-of-year (EOY) benchmark month, no new subtests were introduced to students in the May administration of ISIP.

To resolve the issue for the 2019–20 school year, Istation is introducing a "safety net" for students who receive a new subtest so that a lower score on the newly introduced subtest will not adversely affect the overall ISIP score for that student.

Testing Requirements and Test Windows

ISIP is administered to all students in Kindergarten through grade 2 statewide, to students in Kindergarten through grade 3 in Reading Achievement Math & School Culture (RAMS) schools, and students in grades Kindergarten through grade in K-5 Plus schools.

The assessment must be administered to these grades in benchmark months: August or September (depending on the month chosen by the district) for beginning-of-year (BOY), January for middle-of-year (MOY), and May for EOY.

For questions about Istation, please contact the Istation Customer Success department at support@istation.com or 1-866-883-READ (7323), or contact Dr. Brigette Russell, Deputy Director of Assessment, PED at (505) 827-6528 or Brigette.Russell2@state.nm.us.

cc: Kara Bobroff, Interim Secretary
Tim Hand, PhD, Deputy Secretary
Adán Delgado, Deputy Secretary
Katarina Sandoval, Deputy Secretary
Lynn Vásquez, Director of Assessment of Student Learning

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
300 DON GASPAR
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501-2786
Telephone (505) 827-5800
www.ped.state.nm.us

GWENDOLYN PEREA WARNIMENT, PH.D.
DEPUTY CABINET SECRETARY

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

July 23, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, District Test Coordinators

FROM: Gwen Perea Warniment, PhD, Deputy Secretary of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment
Timothy Hand, PhD, Deputy Secretary of Policy, Accountability, and Research

RE: Assessment Announcements: Accessing Spring 2019 Assessment Results and Draft 2019–20 Assessment Calendar

---

Embargo Data Review of Spring 2019 Assessment Results

The Public Education Department (PED) is pleased to provide a local preview period of your Spring 2019 student achievement result. The results will be posted in the Secure Online Assessment Portal (SOAP) at https://soap.ped.state.nm.us/ **beginning today at 12:00 p.m.** for your review. Results are **unmasked** and contain student results for as few as one student. This embargo period allows districts and charter schools to review their data for discrepancies.

Following this embargo period, the PED will provide complete and publicly accessible data sets on **July 26th, at 3:00 p.m.** Public release of **masked** results will be compliant with all laws protecting individual student privacy.

For SOAP log-in credentials, password recovery, or access to SOAP, please contact your district's SOAP Manager. If you need additional assistance, please email Jeanho Rodriguez at Jeanho.Rodriguez@state.nm.us

Accessing Spring 2019 Transition Assessment Reports

Individual student reports (ISRs), district summaries, student rosters, and performance-level summaries are accessible online through the PearsonAccess^{Next} (PAN) system. Printed ISRs will

be shipped to districts and charter schools on July 31. The Evidence Statement Analysis Report will be available through the Data Management and Reporting System (DMRS) in August. For assistance in accessing reports in PAN and DMRS, please contact the helpdesk at 1-833-350-4584.

Statewide Transition Assessment Performance

This was the first year of using a shorter version of the blueprints, and it is not uncommon to see some variability whenever such changes are made to an assessment program. The baseline results from the transition assessment produced comparable results to the traditional PARCC assessment, with both English language arts (ELA) and mathematics proficiencies about 1.5 percentage points different from PARCC proficiencies. The minor fluctuations in the statewide ELA and math results are well within normal variation, and other states transitioning away from the PARCC assessment experienced similar results. This level of comparability will help to track academic progress over time.

Educators and other stakeholders should always focus on multi-year trends to understand how educational programs are working and what improvements may be necessary. We applaud the efforts undertaken by our educators and schools to maintain high-quality instruction aligned to our adopted standards during this transition year.

New Mexico hopes to see improvements in the state's summative assessment framework in the next few years, as the assessment systems shifts to reflect the feedback and guidance from our community engagement conversations, the Student Success Task Force, and the Assessment and Accountability Advisory Committee. Our current procurement aims to provide

- **culturally relevant, custom developed assessments** in grades 3–8 without increasing testing time and while maintaining comparability;
- a **college entrance exam** for all students at grade 11;
- a more **balanced approached to measuring student learning** that encourages the use of local classroom and district level assessments; and
- **assessment literacy** for multiple stakeholders.

As recommended by the task force, the Spring 2020 math and ELA assessment in grades 3–8 will use the same blueprint as Spring 2019, with the addition of custom-developed field test items.

2019–20 Draft Assessment Calendar

The draft calendar of state assessments for the 2019–20 school year accompanies this memorandum. For any questions regarding the calendar, please contact Brigette Russell, PhD, Deputy Director of Assessment, at Brigette.Russell2@state.nm.us.

Enc. (1) Draft calendar of state assessments for 2019–2020

cc: Kara Bobroff, Interim Cabinet Secretary
Adán Delgado, Deputy Secretary
Katarina Sandoval, Deputy Secretary
Daniel Manzano, Chief of Staff
Alexis Álvarez, Interim Director of Accountability
Lynn Vásquez, Director of Assessment

NEW MEXICO
Public Education Department

Assessment Calendar 2019-20

7.22.19 DRAFT

Fall 2019

Assessment	Grades	Fall 2019
Istation Indicators of Student Progress (ISIP)	K-2[1]	August or September[1]
Math, ELA, and Science Senior Retests[2]	12	District scheduled
New Mexico Alternate Performance Assessment (NMAPA) Senior Retests Only	Senior Retest	Oct. 14 – Nov. 1
Kindergarten Observation Tool	Kindergarten	First 30 days of instructional year
End of Course Exams	TBD	TBD
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)[3]	Selected students	Oct. 14 – Dec. 20

Winter & Spring 2020

Assessment	Grades	Winter 2020	Spring 2020
(New) Math and ELA Assessment	3-8		April 6 – May 8 (estimated)
(New) College Entrance Exam (Math and ELA)	11	TBD	TBD
SBA Spanish Reading[4]	3-8, 11, 12, 12+		April 6 – May 8
New Mexico Assessment of Science Readiness (NMASR)	5, 8, 11		March 2 – 27
Istation Indicators of Student Progress (ISIP)	K-2[1]	January 1 – 31	May 1 – 31
(New) Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM)	3-8, 11		March 9 – April 10
ACCESS for ELLS Alt-ACCESS	ACCESS: K-12 Alt-ACCESS: 1-12	Jan. 13 – Mar. 6	
End of Course Exams	TBD	TBD	TBD
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)[3]	Selected students	Jan. 6 – Mar. 13	Mar. 16 – May 22

Please note that PED is currently in procurement process for those assessments identified as new.

[1] Grades K-2 in all schools statewide; K-3 in RAMS (formerly RDA) schools; grades K-5 in K-5 Plus schools. The **first** administration of Istation is recorded in the BOY, MOY, and EOY administration months. The BOY administration is in August or September. Each district should choose **one** calendar month for BOY administration.

[2] End of Course Exams will be used in lieu of Transition Assessment, SBA Science, SBA Spanish for senior retests.

[3] A small number of students in selected districts. Participating districts and schools have already been notified.

[4] A Spanish Language Arts proficiency assessment may be available in place of the SBA Spanish Reading for some grades. More information will be forthcoming.