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January 31, 2020

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, Special Education Directors, District Test Coordinators

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

**RE:** **Assessment Program Availability for 2020-21 SY and Demonstrations of Competency Updates**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "GPN", enclosed in a circular scribble.

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As local educational agencies (LEAs) are planning for the 2020–21 academic school year, the Public Education Department (PED) takes this opportunity to provide the following updates and reminders regarding statewide, assessment-related programs. Please be advised that these are general announcements that will be more clearly articulated and supported through assessment literacy and professional development in the months ahead.

**Istation Early Literacy and Mathematics Assessments in the 2020–21 School Year**

For the 2020–21 academic year, the PED is extending its contract with Istation, which provides LEAs access to the Indicators of Progress (ISIP) early literacy assessment. As part of the 2020–21 contract, Istation’s formative mathematics assessment for kindergarten through grade 2—although their administration is **not required**—will be available to all LEAs at no cost. The PED will provide articulated test assignment guidance in the months ahead.

**NM-MSSA Interim Assessments Available in the 2020–21 School Year**

Starting in the 2020–21 academic year, all districts will have access to formative and interim assessments aligned to the summative New Mexico Measures of Student Success and

Achievement (NM-MSSA) ELA and math in grades 3–8. These interim assessments—although their administered is **not required**—will be available to all LEAs at no cost.

### **Grade 9 PSAT Administration to Start in Spring 2021**

As a reminder, students in grade 9 will be required to take the PSAT in spring 2021. Although assessment of mathematics and English language arts (ELA) in grades 9 and 10 is not required by federal law, New Mexico’s ESSA Plan includes a growth component that necessitates assessing students in math and ELA each year from grades 3 through 11.

### **Graduation Demonstration of Competency Requirements**

Graduation competency requirements for students currently in grades 10–12 (Cohorts 2022, 2021, and 2020) have been previously published on the PED [Graduation Requirements web page](#). These documents have now been updated to reflect newly revised cut scores on some of the nationally recognized assessments listed on demonstration of graduation competency menus. The changes in cut scores reflect improved concordances, determined in consultation with the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions, College Board, the New Mexico ACT Council, the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) career exploration program office, and the state Assessment and Accountability Advisory Committee.

The Cohort 2023 (grade 9) Menu of Options has also been posted to that page. All four cohort documents are attached to this memorandum. For questions about graduation competency requirements, please contact [Brigitte.Russell2@state.nm.us](mailto:Brigitte.Russell2@state.nm.us) or [Melissa.Hernandez2@state.nm.us](mailto:Melissa.Hernandez2@state.nm.us). For questions about graduation *coursework* requirements, please contact [JoAnn.Beuerle@state.nm.us](mailto:JoAnn.Beuerle@state.nm.us). General questions related to state assessments can be submitted to [PED.Assessment@state.nm.us](mailto:PED.Assessment@state.nm.us).

Encl. (4): Graduation Menu of Options for Cohort 2023  
Graduation Menu of Options for Cohort 2022 (revised)  
Graduation Menu of Options for Cohort 2021 (revised)  
Graduation Menu of Options for Cohort 2020 (revised)

cc: Ryan Stewart, EdLD, Secretary Designate  
Kara Bobroff, Deputy Secretary  
Adán Delgado, Deputy Secretary  
Tim Hand, PhD, Deputy Secretary  
Katarina Sandoval, Deputy Secretary  
Alexis Álvarez, PhD, Director of Accountability  
Jacqueline Costales, Division Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
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