



Above/below grade-level testing in the NM PED Accountability system, SY 2020-21

Statewide Summative Language Arts Assessments, Mathematics, and Science Testing for Accountability Purposes.

Grade-Level-Aligned Testing

- All Students must test according to their enrolled grade, as stipulated in the “[2020-21 Statewide Test Assignment Guidelines](#)” in the [DTC Resources](#)¹ page on the NM-PED website.
- For testing purposes, a student’s enrolled grade shall be the grade in which the student is reported to be enrolled in STARS on the second Wednesday of February (February 10th for school year 2020-21).
- For a student to be credited as having participated in Statewide Summative Testing, and for the student’s results to be included in any subsequent reporting, including NM Vistas:
 - a student must be administered a test aligned to the student’s grade level as reported in STARS’ February 10th, 2021 data collection (also known as STARS 120-day snapshot), or
 - the NM-PED must have approved a waiver to administer an above grade testing (see instructions below).
- No exceptions to this rule will be approved for students enrolled in grades K-9. It is important to test appropriate content in grades K-8 and there is no 9th grade or 10th-grade assessment in SY 2020-21. Please note that 8th-grade students enrolled in Algebra I must test in the grade-aligned Statewide Math Assessment in SY 2020-21.
- Students tested in DLM Assessments must test according to their enrolled grade.

Testing Below Grade Level

- No students will be approved to participate in a test below their enrolled grade level for Accountability purposes. Any student who tests below their enrolled grade level will be recorded as a ‘non-participant’ for that test for all Accountability purposes.

Testing Above Grade Level

- **Above grade level testing in Mathematics and Language Arts Assessments (SAT):**
On rare occasions students enrolled in grade 10 may be approved to take the SAT in place of the PSAT10. Any such approval must be obtained from the NM-PED in advance of testing. To be eligible for above-grade testing, the student must receive sufficient content instruction prior to or during the testing window. Note that even though it is a very rare occasion for the State, some LEAs may administer above grade tests more frequently due to differences in local practices.
- **Above grade level testing in Science Assessment (NM-ASR):**
On rare occasions students enrolled in grade 10 may be approved to take the grade-11 Science Assessment. Any such approval must be obtained from the NM-PED in advance of testing. To be eligible for above-grade testing, the student must receive sufficient content instruction prior to or during the testing window. As stated above, even though it is a very rare occasion for the State, some LEAs may administer above grade tests more frequently due to differences in local practices.

Waivers for Above Grade Level Testing

- LEAs may obtain approval from the NM-PED to administer above grade level tests, and to have those students’ test results qualify for Accountability purposes.
- To obtain a waiver, the LEA must submit a completed Waiver request to the NM-PED. The waiver request is to be submitted by email to ped.assessment@state.nm.us with “Seeking Off-Grade Testing Permission” in the subject line

¹ DTC Resources page: <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/assessment-3/district-test-coordinator/>.

Look for the most up-to-date versions of “[2020-21 Statewide Test Assignment Guidelines](#)” and “[Statewide Assessment Calendar](#)” in DTC Resources page.

if you seek an approval for up-testing, as it is stated in the “[2020-21 Statewide Test Assignment Guidelines](#)” (please review the footnotes in the specified Guidelines file for a full description). Please be sure to attach the completed Waiver request to the email. Incomplete Waiver requests may not be considered for approval by the NM-PED.

- An LEA may request a waiver for more than one student. The LEA must provide complete documentation for each student for whom a waiver is requested. However, an LEA may include all students for whom a waiver is requested on the same waiver request form.
- Requests for approval of above-grade testing² must be received by the NM-PED **before 5 pm on February 10th, 2021**. An authorized NM-PED representative will reply to the email address, which LEA will specify in the request form, about approval or non-approval of up-testing waivers by close of business on February 18th, 2021.
- Should a student enrolled in grade 10 be approved to participate in the SAT or NM-ASR, the NM-PED reserves the right to not fund said student’s participation in the SAT in subsequent years and NM-PED allows only one attempt in high school at the NM-ASR if taken in grade 10.
- NM-PED may conduct random audits of results of approved up-tested students. This may influence further approvals of up-testing requests coming from particular LEAs.
- Template for waiver request for a student or a list of students within LEA, please submit in **XLSX / XLX / CSV** file formats:

Place above the table the Name and Email address to whom the Approval / Denial should be sent

STATE_ STID	SCH NUMB	DIST NAME	SCH NAME	SAT_ HIGHEST_ COURSE_ NAME_ STATE	SAT_ HIGHEST_ COURSE_ ID_ STATE	NMASR_ HIGHEST_ COURSE_ NAME_ STATE	NMASR_ HIGHEST_ COURSE_ ID_ STATE	STARS_ ENROLLED_ GRADE	REQUESTED_ TEST_ ADMINISTRATION	COMMENTS	NMPED_ DECISION

Col #	Column Name	Description	Data format
1	STATE_STID	State Student ID, as in STARS	9 digits
2	SCHNUMB	District_Code and Location_ID together	6 digits
3	DISTNAME	District Name	char
4	SCHNAME	School Name	char
5	SAT_HIGHEST_COURSE_NAME_STATE	The highest state course name which qualifies student for up-testing in SAT 11, name convention as in STARS	char
6	SAT_HIGHEST_COURSE_ID_STATE	The highest state course id which qualifies student for up-testing in SAT 11, ID convention as in STARS	digits
7	NMASR_HIGHEST_COURSE_NAME_STATE	The highest state course name which qualifies student for up-testing in NM-ASR 11, name convention as in STARS	char
8	NMASR_HIGHEST_COURSE_ID_STATE	The highest state course id which qualifies student for up-testing in NM-ASR 11, ID convention as in STARS	digits
9	STARS_ENROLLED_GRADE	STARS 120-day snapshot grade level	2 digits
10	REQUESTED_TEST_ADMINISTRATION	SAT 11 / NM-ASR 11 / SAT 11 and NM-ASR 11	char
11	COMMENTS	Comments. Please provide any additional information NM-PED may need in consideration of this request.	text
12	NMPED_DECISION	Keep Empty. Field for NM-PED decision.	empty

² Flexible Testing does not affect above/below grade level testing.