

March 26 & March 18, 2021 DTC Office Hours FAQ



This document was updated to include the questions from the March 26, 2021 DTC Office Hours. Questions are noted in the shaded areas below.

General Administration & Flexibility Related Questions

Where do we get the document that is being shared? Will the recording, ppt and FAQ be available?	All documents supporting this session are available DTC Resources webpage.
If we have parents who will sign up for their children to test at a later time, can we still accommodate their request?	Yes, if it fits within the LEA's testing window.
Is there a minimum number of students for participation?	There is not a minimum number of students that need to be included in assessments. Please test to the greatest extent possible. This is based on your LEA's circumstances.
Can we still follow our flexible option plan that we submitted in February in the online survey?	Yes.
Can students who are in-person learning, opt out of the assessment?	If students are attending school for in-person learning, they should be encouraged to participate in assessment. However, PED recognizes that circumstances may vary from LEA to LEA and may be dependent on the LEA's original testing plan.
What types of documentation do we need to gather to support families assessment choices?	This is a decision that needs to be made locally. PED is not requiring submission of any documentation other than the completion of the Flexible Testing Survey .
What does "test to greatest extent possible" mean? Does that mean all students doing in person learning?	PED is not dictating what this will look like at a local level, LEAs are allowed to define this based on situations.
If we stick with our initial plan, that has already been communicated to parents, to NOT test, will our district be penalized in any way?	Yes, LEAs can stick with their original plan without penalties if that is the most suitable decision based on local circumstances.
Is it in writing somewhere confirming that schools do NOT have to administer the MSSA or ASR tests to any students if they already had a plan in place to use short cycle assessment data?	Please refer to the memorandum, which is in the Flexible Testing Guidance . It does not state these assessments are required. It does say schools should reevaluate if they can administer assessments as in-person learning takes place.
When will we hear if our Test In English Waivers were granted, or are those mute with the Flexibility?	As soon as waivers are processed through various PED bureaus for signatures, Assessment Coordinator will notify district representative.
Will the test data be tied to the overall school "grade" as given by the PED?	Assessment data for this year will not be used for accountability purposes.

Are we still obligated to do staff test training if we are not administering assessments?	All staff who are administering, overseeing, or likely to come into contact with standardized testing materials should be trained on test security protocols, administration requirements and materials Handling prior to the administration.
Can LEAs choose to do the iMSSA, Illuminate or another interim assessment at the end of year, instead of MSSA, as we indicated in the Survey?	If an LEA is not administering MSSA, for reasons that are locally supported, then a local or state provided interim is a suitable and well-advised alternative.
Is there an additional bulk upload window prior to the start of the iMSSA When is the testing window?	The rostering that has been done for the Summative assessment will be used for the EOY iMSSA. LEAs may need to do minor adjustments pending changes to students since initial rostering. iMSSA testing window begins 4/19/21 and will end 5/28/21.
Superintendents still believe LEAs must test all students and if this does not happen, there will be potentially negative financial implications.	There are no set minimum requirements for ESSA testing this spring. ESSA test participation is not tied to state appropriated funding. As LEAs brings students back into in-person learning, PED does ask that the LEA considers the possibility of assessing additional students. PED does ask that LEAs administer other assessments such as local interims or iMSSA, IStation, etc., at EOY, which will allow your LEA to have data albeit limited.
Reports	
Please address what type of reports we will get from testing? When will reports arrive?	Please refer to page 7 of the Flexible Testing Considerations document for detailed program report information. Please keep in mind that aggregate report decisions will be driven by the testing data at post-administration as it will rely on the number of students tested.
Can testing windows be extended further?	Testing windows for all assessments are to the latest date possible. Please see most current Assessment Calendar
Cognia – NM-MSSA (Math, ELA, SLA); NM-ASR; SBA Spanish Reading Related Questions	
Can we still order materials? Can we still request a paper administration for NM-MSSA for a grade level if computers are an issue?	All Cognia testing materials are available in paper-based option. The following materials and will need to be ordered through the ordering portal: NM-ASR (paper and online), Spanish Reading SBA, NM-MSSA ELA, Math, SLA (paper only).
If I have a home school student that lives in our district and want to take the NM-MSSA test, can they take it at our school?	Home school curriculum may not align well to what is being offered in the school setting. Assessment results would not be valid or reliable if the home curriculum is not aligned to state adopted standards.
Only NMSSA-Spanish and NMSSA-ASR will be ordered through Cognia services website. Is this correct?	The only Cognia assessments that need to be ordered on the portal are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NM-MSSA Math, ELA and SLA – paper only • NM-ASR – paper and computer based • SBA Spanish – paper only
Is someone reviewing and approving the iTester Transfer Requests? I have several still on the Dashboard. The schools have not approved them.	The first course of action is to reach out to the district via phone or email directly and make a request that they approve the transfer. If that still does not yield a response, please contact the Cognia Help Desk for support.
If our school ordered NM-MSSA paper tests and will not be using them, can we get labels for sending them back?	Yes, please reach out to the Cognia Help & Support Desk for support in returning unused materials.

What forms need to be sent to NM PED after the MSSA and ASR assessments are finished.	After spring testing is completed, each LEA should upload a Superintendent's Verification form to the Test Coordinator Portal , verifying test security training, and accommodation implementation.
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College Board – SAT , PSAT Related Questions

Is there a timeline for when College Board accommodations will be approved?	If you have not seen a change in status for the request after a week, you can reach out to the SSD customer support desk to check on that. There was a deadline to submit accommodation requests which may have passed at the time you submitted.
Will the SAT be available in October?	There are currently no plans for SAT in the fall. The fall SAT was offered this school year because of the cancellation of spring 2019 testing. The Fall SAT is not an annually scheduled test.
Can schools offer PSAT	Schools may offer PSAT however, it is not a PED required assessment and the cost is the responsibility of the LEA.
Is there a directions flyer for how to do the Pre-Administration for the SAT? I understood it could be done at home, but I don't know how to tell kids how to do that	<p>Students can do part of the pre-administration session remotely. You can have them opt in to Student Search Service and complete the optional questionnaire ahead of time from home by having them go here:</p> <p>https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/about/benefits/student-search-service</p> <p>They would be able to log in or create an account and opt in from there which would save time on test day.</p> <p>The part that cannot be done remotely is the score sends, this would need to be done in the secure browser and under proctor supervision. It can be done before test day, but has to be in-person.</p>

When will bulk upload window be available?	Please refer to NM Digital SAT Key Dates and NMPPT SAT Key Dates
Since many 11th grade students will not have the opportunity to take the SAT, is the State considering administering it to 12th graders next year.	The PED contract for SAT School Day is only for 11th graders so seniors should not be included. There are still weekend administrations available that they can participate in. Please see ACT & SAT Weekend Testing reentry document .
Are SAT rosters automatically uploaded?	No, SAT rosters are not automatically uploaded, they need to be uploaded at the LEA level, the process was discussed step by step during the 3/26/21 DTC Office Hours, please see PPT slides and/or view recording for the walk through.

WIDA – ACCESS for ELLs/Alt ACCESS Related Questions

Is ACCESS testing connected to funding	Using the flexibility available for ACCESS for ELL's testing will NOT jeopardize the approval of state-funded BMEP applications.
If we did not refuse our shipment of materials for WIDA, how do we go about sending them back?	Please contact DRC Customer Service at wida@datarecognitioncorp.com or call (855) 787-9615.
If we just gave them the screener or the WAPT like in March or April, we still have to give them the ACCESS test?	New students must be administered a PED approved screener to determine if they will be classified as EL. If your LEA is going to administer ACCESS and students are able to participate, they should be assessed.

Can we change paper ACCESS testing to online?	Yes, computer based assessments are available for all domains, grades 4 th and above. There is not a Kindergarten computer based assessment, and grades 1 st – 3 rd must complete the writing domain in paper/pencil format. If an LEA would like to change format for the assessment, they should contact DRC (855) 787-9615.
How do we know if a new student has been screened to see if they need to take the ACCESS for ELLs?	Students who have complete online screening will have results in the online WIDAAMS portal. Kindergarten students completing the screener will have paper results only. Please check with the individual who oversees the screening of ELLs at your district for local procedures.
NAEP Related Questions	
Would the DTC be able to complete the NAEP survey on behalf of the schools?	Yes, DTCs will be allowed to complete the survey for all the sampled schools within your district.
We would have received notice about the NAEP survey already, if we are one of the 68 schools?	Notification letters will be sent to district Superintendents and school Principals by April 1, 2021.
High School Graduation Requirements Related Questions	
Did the state legislature waive the Dem of Comp expectation so that course completion is sufficient for graduation this cohort?	This is not a decision tied to the legislature. This was provided to schools in the Support for High School Seniors 2020 document.
If our school board said course completion was sufficient for Demonstration of Competency, does that still hold?	Yes. Please refer to the Support for High School Seniors 2020 document for all details.
Dyslexia Screener	
Is there a platform/format the Assessment Bureau requires us to use to capture dyslexia screener data?	Yes. This will be collected in May. DTCs will be the primary point of contact. There will be an upcoming training required for all DTCs in April regarding this data collection. Please watch for this information.
NWEA sent out an email stating that they are going to be creating a Dyslexia screener program that will be included with all NWEA accounts. Can we get this screener included in the list of approved platforms to use as the 1st grade Dyslexia screener?	The Assessment Bureau will extend this request to the Literacy Bureau.