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June 22, 2021

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, Special Education Directors, District Test Coordinators
FROM: Gwendolyn Perea Warniment, PhD, Deputy Secretary of Teaching, Learning & Assessment
RE: **2021-22 SY Statewide Assessment Schedule and Program Information**

Using data as a basis for information gathering and decision-making is a core component of New Mexico's Multi-Layered Systems of Support (MLSS). As noted in the state's [Roadmap to Accelerated Learning and Renewal](#), school leaders need to identify their local system of assessments (e.g., formative, progress monitoring, universal screening, interim/benchmarking, summative) that yield multiple measures of students' academic progress.

While local education agencies (LEAs) have the flexibility to include additional assessments beyond state supported and federally required assessments, the Public Education Department (PED) provides the following updates and reminders for the upcoming academic year. Additionally, the [current 2021-22 Assessment Schedule](#) is available to assist with local planning. It remains in draft form since national Advanced Placement (AP) dates are not available until July.

Annual District Test Coordinator & Technology Coordinator Designation

Each year Superintendents and Charter School Administrators must formally designate the District Test Coordinator (DTC) and Technology Coordinator per 6.10.7.7 NMAC for access into secure testing portals and official Assessment Bureau business. Superintendents and Charter School Administrators that have new DTCs can access the designation form [here](#). Returning DTCs can submit the designation form on behalf of the LEA leader via the [Test Coordinator Portal](#). Designation forms can also be sent to PED.Assessment@state.nm.us.

Assessments for Early Grades

Istation's Indicators of Progress (ISIP) early literacy in English and Spanish language arts in grades K-3 and math assessments in grades K-2 will be available statewide. ISIP language arts is **required** statewide for students in grades K-2. ISIP assessments are provided LEAs at no cost.

Early Childhood Observation Tool (ECOT)

ECOT is the application that houses the **Kindergarten Observation Tool (KOT)** and the **Preschool Observational Assessment**. All preschool and kindergarten students must be assessed using ECOT within the first 30 instructional days (calendar days for preschool children with IEPs). ECOT training will be available in the Canvas learning management systems (LMS) starting July 1, 2021 as self-paced course modules. New preschool and kindergarten teachers must complete the new staff course and returning teachers must complete the refresher course by August 30, 2021. Please direct questions to Brenda Kofahl at Brenda.Kofahl@state.nm.us.

Assessment Requirements for K-5 Plus and K-5 Plus Pilot

K-5 Plus and K-5 Plus Pilot schools are required to administer ISIP early literacy and math assessment in grades K-2. The interim Measures of Student Success and Achievement (iMSSA) is required for math and English language arts in grades 3-8. Please contact Feliz Garcia at Feliz.Garcia@state.nm.us or Jared Vigil at Jared.Vigil@state.nm.us with questions regarding PED's K-5 Plus program requirements.

Dyslexia Screening for 1st Grade

Per Senate Bill 22-13-31 NMSA 1978, all first-grade students must be screened for dyslexia by the 40th day of school and within two weeks of initial enrollment for students new to New Mexico. The screeners remain the same as last year:

- Teach Me to Read (English screener; printable PDF)
- Lexercise (English screener; printable PDF)
- Istation's ISIP (Spanish screener; same as ISIP for 1st grade online)
- IDEL (Spanish screener; printable PDF)

Screener training and printable materials will be available in the LMS as self-paced course modules starting July 1, 2021. Please contact Severo Martinez at Severo.Martinez@state.nm.us for questions related to literacy programs and dyslexia training.

Fall PSAT/ NMSQT Option

The PED will pay for all New Mexico public school 10th grade students to take the PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT & National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) assessment this fall. Participation in the PSAT/NMSQT is voluntary. The billing for these assessments will go directly to the PED and not through the LEA's budget. Schools will order tests online through the PSAT ordering site and complete the remittance form online after testing.

As a reminder, 11th grade students who are either enrolled in or eligible to participate in, the Free and Reduced Price Lunch (FRPL) program qualify to take the **PSAT/NMSQT for free**. Schools must identify eligible 11th graders and request fee waivers on their behalf through the PSAT ordering site, along with their regular order. *The PED will not be billed nor pay for the 11th grade assessment*, but students who do take the test may be eligible for the National Merit Scholarship Program and other programs that use PSAT/NMSQT scores. For questions on fall PSAT/ NMSQT, please contact Alex Lutz at Alexandra.Lutz@state.nm.us.

iMSSA and Istation Trainings

PED is developing start-of-the-year training schedules with Cognia and Istation. These dates will be provided to DTCs through the Assessment Newsletter. K-8 progress monitoring resources are available to support summer instructional programs. Formative questions sets for mathematics, language arts, and science for grades 3-8 are available at

<https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/formative-assessments/> from the Cognia website. Please visit the following links for more immediate information:

- Cognia grades 3-8 math, language arts, and science assessment resources [professional learning archive](#).
- Istation early math (grades K-2) and literacy (grades K-3) [training archive](#).

For questions regarding this memorandum or the current [2021-22 Assessment Schedule](#), please contact Lynn Vásquez at Lynn.Vasquez@state.nm.us.

cc: Ryan Stewart, Ed.L.D., Secretary of Education
Vickie Bannerman, Ed.D., Deputy Secretary of Identity, Equity & Transformation
Adán Delgado, Deputy Secretary of Finance and Operations
Timothy Hand, Ph.D., Deputy Secretary of Policy, Strategy & Legislative Affairs
Katarina Sandoval, Deputy Secretary of Academic Engagement & Student Success
Jacqueline Costales, Director, Curriculum and Instruction
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