



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
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DR. KURT STEINHAUS
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, DESIGNATE

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

November 12, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Charter School Administrators School Counselors, District Test Coordinators

FROM: Gwendolyn Perea Warniment, PhD, Deputy Secretary of Teaching, Learning, & Assessment

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. P. W.", enclosed in a blue rectangular box.

RE: Required Use of Interim (Short Cycle) Assessments for the Remainder of the 2021-22 School Year

This memorandum is a follow up communication to the Superintendents' call held at 9:00 a.m. this morning; a recording of this call is available [here](#) (Access Passcode: Lie3o8v&).

The loss of assessment data from spring 2020 due to school closures and the limited state data available from spring 2021 has hindered PED's ability to inform several federally required accountability measures.

As noted in the 2021-22 Assessment Calendar, PED will administer the New Mexico Measures of Student Success and Achievement (MSSA) and SAT to all schools in spring 2022 and set achievement standards on these new assessments and report on preliminary school ratings. However, growth scores using the summative assessment will not be available until the spring 2023 assessment.

To better understand students' progress through the 2021-2022 school year, **all districts and charter schools serving grades 3-8 must administer either a locally procured or the state-provided interim assessment for middle-of-year (MOY) and end-of-year (EOY) for the purposes of benchmarking students.**

PED will work with the Center for Assessment to evaluate the spring 2022 state assessment results. We will use either the BOY, MOY data, or both to help contextualize the 2022 state assessment results. Further, PED will also use state assessment results from 2021, for those students who completed last spring's test, to provide additional information for understanding the spring 2022 test scores.

The Center for Assessment will conduct a comprehensive study of student performance using data gathered from the 2020-2021 school year and the 2021-22 school year. PED has identified the following high-quality 3-8 math and language arts interim assessments to be most viable for this study to provide a measure of student progress:

- MAP (NWEA)
- i-Ready (Curriculum Associates)
- STAR (Renaissance Learning)
- iMSSA (Cognia)
- Inspect (Illuminate)
- ISIP (Istation)

If your district or charter does not currently utilize one of the interim assessment tools above, PED will require the use of iMSSA—a PED-funded interim assessment available to all schools. An [iMSSA MOY training for new users](#) is scheduled for November 18, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. General assessment information, information on rostering students, and a calendar of key dates can be found on Cognia’s Help and Support site [here](#). In addition, a list of approved, locally procured interim assessment tools will be shared with the District Test Coordinators.

Interim assessment results, including any beginning-of-year (BOY) data, are due to PED no later than **June 30, 2022**. All 3-8 interim assessment data, except for interim MSSA (iMSSA), will be collected by PED. Data submission options and procedures will be communicated to District and Charter School Test Coordinators. Districts and state charters may arrange agreements with their interim assessment provider to submit data directly to PED.

PED’s Assessment Bureau will host optional office hours for District Test Coordinators (DTCs) to address questions related to this memorandum on November 18, 2021, at 8:00 a.m. Office hours registration is available [here](#).

For questions regarding this memorandum, please contact PED.Assessment@state.nm.us.

cc: Kurt Steinhaus, Secretary of Education-Designate
Vickie Bannerman, Ed.D., Deputy Secretary of Identity, Equity & Transformation
Katarina Sandoval, Deputy Secretary of Academic Engagement & Student Success
Alexis Alvarez, Interim Director, Research, Evaluation and Accountability
Elisabeth Peterson, Director, Priority Schools Bureau
Lynn Vásquez, Director, Assessments and Learning Management Systems