

- This FAQ addresses questions from local education agencies (LEAs) regarding the November 12, 2021 [Memorandum](#).
- All DTCs serving grades 3-8 need to complete this [survey](#).

Questions on allowances for interim assessments	PED Response
1. Could local education agencies (LEAs) use more than one interim for various grade levels?	Yes (e.g., Istation for grades 3-5; iMSSA for grades 6-8).
2. What if an LEA's interim assessment does not appear on the memo?	<p>PED will work to provide flexibility to LEAs, recognizing that not all LEAs may be administering one of the assessments identified in the memorandum. If a DTC is unsure if the interim assessment would be recognized or allowed by PED, please indicate the name of the interim assessment in the survey under the field of "other".</p> <p>PED will review the interim assessment allowance request and confirm consent for allowance or direct the LEA to default using iMSSA.</p>
3. Is 95% participation for iMSAA required?	There is no threshold requirement of 95% like there is for state summative assessments.
4. If a school uses one of the interim assessments identified in the memo, does PED need to be notified of which one is being used?	Yes. All LEAs serving students in grades 3-8 must complete the interim assessment usage survey linked at the top of this FAQ and provided in the last newsletter .
5. If using Cognia Interim Assessments, should the Language Usage be done? Or is it strictly Math and ELA?	The iMSSA includes Math, Reading, and Language Usage. PED highly recommends administering all 3 subtests to determine if students are on track towards meeting grade-level standards as they prepare for MSSA, which also includes language usage. For an overview of the iMSSA, please click here .
6. If the interim assessment has two separate tests for ELA (Reading and Language), are both to be administered?	Yes. Please see the answer above.
<p>7. If using NWEA, should Growth Reading and Growth Language be conducted for the ELA?</p> <p>8. These are two separate tests, should both be conducted?</p>	Language Growth is not required for data submission for LEAs using NWEA. LEAs using NWEA can continue using reading only if the language subtest has not been historically used; however, PED will accept data on both for LEAs that utilize both subtests.
9. Is it a requirement to do both iMSSA (EOY) and MSSA?	Yes. MSSA is the federally required assessment that meets ESSA requirements. iMSSA will allow PED to examine within-year growth for the purposes of the study.

<p>10. For those who have not tested in both reading and language, should testing start at the MOY to start determining growth from this point on in both categories? Would it be acceptable to start with the new categories at the beginning of next year?</p>	<p>The memorandum required all LEAs serving grades 3-8 to start at MOY this year. Please operationalize the interim assessment now (this year). Do not wait until next year.</p>
<p>11. Is Galileo now an acceptable Interim?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>12. We have some sites that use Math for Maps and iMSSA for ELA. Is this acceptable?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Questions regarding the Pandemic-Related Nonstandard Assessment Administration Waiver and testing remotely.</p>	<p>PED Response</p>
<p>13. What was the decision, in regards to, the blanket waiver for assessing from home should that be needed?</p>	<p>The Pandemic Waiver applies only to the programs listed within the document (e.g., WIDA screener, K5 plus, dyslexia screening, ECOT).</p> <p>No waiver is needed for the purposes of the interim assessment requirement. However, LEAs report the testing conditions/location within the PED survey. These questions will be collected now and again following the EOY administration.</p>
<p>14. For those using the iMSSA assessment from home is it required to have a waiver for this to take place?</p>	<p>No waiver is needed unless you are a K5 Plus program school, then the Pandemic Waiver, Part A would be submitted.</p>
<p>15. Will a spreadsheet need to be submitted with the ID numbers of students who take the assessment remotely (e.g., fully virtual students and students on quarantine)?</p>	<p>Some interim providers will already be collecting that information. If there are state student identification numbers (SSIDs) within the interim assessment vendor’s roster, that is helpful. PED does prefer to have SSIDs included.</p>
<p>Questions regarding SWD, Accommodations, and Accessibility.</p>	<p>PED Response</p>
<p>16. What would be used for our students on the alternative assessment?</p> <p>17. Is it required to use the DLM embedded assessments with the interim requirement?</p>	<p>The memorandum does not state that an interim assessment must be given to all students in grades 3-8. However, It does state that all schools serving students in grades 3-8 must administer an interim assessment. PED recognizes that interim assessment vendors may not provide the full battery of accommodations as provided during the administration of state summative assessments (e.g., braille, large print paper if zoom is limited). However, LEAs need to provide accommodations where possible (e.g., refreshable braille readers; human signer). IEP and EL teams should determine if the interim assessment has appropriate accommodations.</p>

	For students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, LEAs can utilize dynamic learning maps. These provide an instructionally embedded assessment for students with significant cognitive disabilities.
18. iMSSA doesn't offer paper accommodation, do those students get exempt?	PED assumes this student has an IEP in place. This is an IEP team decision.
19. If there is not a text-to-speech option for iMSAA for interim, can a human reader be utilized?	This is an IEP team decision.
20. If the DLM instructionally embedded assessments are used to meet interim requirements, is there a suggested window for MOY and even EOY?	Unlike other interim assessments, the DLM does not have specific MOY and EOY windows. Rather, the DLM has a single window known as the Instructionally Embedded window open from September 13, 2021, to February 23, 2022.
21. If the student's IEP says that they need a paper copy, but it can't be provided with iMSSA, is it ok for them not to take it?	Please follow the IEP team's determination.
22. Is it possible to provide some optional training with vendors that would be more in-depth on what accommodations are available and what those look like on the different vendor platforms?	If iMSSA is being used, yes. If local interim assessments have been procured, this is a request that would be made to the interim assessment provider.
Questions specific to Cognia and the iMSSA	PED Response
23. When will the iMSSA site allow test sessions to be set up for the MOY?	All iMSSA activities can begin on December 6, 2021.
24. In an attempt to schedule a new test session in iMSSA for an interim assessment for MOY, and it does not provide test options, what should be done?	Interim assessments are available for scheduling on the first day of the testing window. MOY assessments will be available for scheduling on 12/6/2021. For comparison, summative assessments are available one week prior to the opening of the testing window.
25. If using Cognia Interim Assessments, should there be the Language Usage? Or is it strictly Math and ELA?	The iMSSA includes Math, Reading, and Language Usage. PED highly recommends administering all 3 subtests to determine if students are on track towards meeting grade-level standards as the students prepare for MSSA, which also includes language usage. For an overview of the iMSSA, please click here .
26. In a K5 Plus district Istation Reading K-3 must be given, however some principals prefer to give the iMSAA to 3rd grade students instead of Istation EOY. Is	Istation was never required for grade 3 this year. Per the assessment schedule , K5 Plus designated schools are required to administer Istation for students in grades K-2. Please feel free to utilize iMSSA for grade 3.

that possible? Would Reading and Math K-2 still be administered?	
27. Are there specific testing windows for MOY and EOY?	Utilize the windows that are established by vendors. The state iMSSA MOY window is December 6 - Feb 28 and EOY is April 4 - May 27.
28. Are testing irregularities submitted for iMSSA through the portal?	Please submit irregularities only if using iMSSA for K5 Plus programs.
29. If iMSAA for BOY is not used, can it be used now for MOY and EOY?	Yes.
30. What platform will the MSSA be administered from? Will it be part of Cognia?	Yes. MSSA is administered on the eMetric platform
31. As a non K5 Plus school there was not a previous requirement to do iMSAA, therefore irregularities were not placed in-portal but were kept at a district level. Are they now put in-portal and wait for a PED response?	Please submit irregularities only if using iMSSA for K5 Plus programs. Reporting iMSSA irregularities in the DTC portal for non-K5 plus programs is NOT required.
32. Is iMSSA administration web-based or for students on chromebooks? Is this accessed through the same APP as NM MSSA?	Yes, iMSSA is web-based and can be administered remotely through a browser.
33. What is the difference between the NM-MSSA (SLA) and NM-MSSA (ELA and Math) tests? Who takes what? And why?	NM MSSA SLA is an accommodation for ELs that have not exited EL status per ACCESS for ELs. An EL student that is not proficient in ELA, would be assigned the SLA form instead. Please refer to the Test Assignment Guidance document on the DTC resources page .
Questions on Data Submission & Data-Sharing Agreements	
34. Are there dates for January DTC training?	Not currently, but the Assessment Bureau is planning to announce the date of the Winter DTC training in the next two weeks. The process of interim assessment data submission will be covered in-depth at the Winter training.
35. NWEA is what has been chosen. What information needs to be provided so that PED can access the results including BOY?	<p>PED will work with the interim assessment vendor first to identify criteria for the data-sharing agreement.</p> <p>The LEA will need to sign a vendor-provided data-sharing agreement with their test vendors. The data-sharing agreement should include all variables collected by the test vendor (i.e., student-level ID, demographics, performance data, and information on test conditions).</p>

	PED will provide training and more details in the January DTC training.
36. If the data-sharing agreements for a district are already completed, is it necessary to renew this year's data?	All LEAs will need to sign a new data-sharing agreement. The new data agreement will authorize vendors to share data collected in 2021-2022 and previous years.
37. Are there dates for the EOY so that these can be added to the district assessment calendar?	Please use the EOY arranged with the interim assessment vendor. The iMSSA EOY window is posted on the state assessment schedule/calendar: April 4 - May 27.
38. Istation results for K-2 are automatically reported to PED for BOY, MOY, and EOY. If ISIP for grades 3-5 are used, will those be reported to PED, or will those need to be submitted? If LEAs are submitted, what will that process entail for Istation specifically?	LEAs will need to provide consent or a data-sharing agreement authorizing PED to obtain this data directly from the interim assessment vendor.
39. What will be expected to turn into the PED? Will this data include specific areas such as ELL, IEP, etc., or all combined data?	From the vendor: PED is requesting information collected by the test vendor during test administration. Vendor-collected information includes student-level ID's, demographics, test performance, (e.g. scale scores/RIT, raw scores)-- including any conditions collected by the vendor. When possible, state student IDs should be included. Item level data is not needed. PED survey: test conditions (e.g., remote or in-person).
40. What format should be used? Will there be a form to fill out?	In most cases, the test vendor should send the data files directly to PED after the LEA signs the data-sharing agreement. Vendor files are sent as either CSV or Excel files. It is unlikely that PED would need the LEA to send additional data.
41. Will updated data sharing agreements for 3-8 interims be sent to LEAs, or will vendors provide them?	The data-sharing agreement will be sent to the LEAs from the vendor. However, vendors may not yet know, as PED has not started reaching out to them. PED is awaiting survey responses. LEAs should anticipate hearing from vendors in late January.
42. Should a data-sharing agreement be done if iMSAA is being administered?	No. PED can obtain data directly from Cognia as the state-provided interim assessment.
43. Traditional assessment calendar states the MOY window goes from December 6 - January 21. Is there a clarification on testing windows?	Outside of iMSSA, LEAs can maintain the interim assessment windows as planned. Districts using iMSSA should follow the state assessment schedule.
44. Where can the data-sharing document be obtained?	These will be finalized in January, and PED will provide the process during the January DTC training.
45. There is a concern regarding the quality of data shared from previous	This will be an option within the data-sharing data agreement.

years. Can BOY, MOY, and EOY be authorized for only the current year?	
46. Is data only going to be collected for grades 3-8 even if NWEA K-8 is administered?	Correct. Data collecting will only be for grades 3-8 from the vendor.
47. There is a site that does both NWEA and Mastery Connect, are both results necessary?	If NWEA has been the interim assessment, please submit NWEA data. Mastery Connect has various levels of usage, and PED can obtain data directly from the vendor for those schools using it as an interim assessment.