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SECRETARY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

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GOVERNOR

May 23, 2024

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, District Test Coordinators
FROM: Arsenio Romero, Ph.D., Secretary of Public Education
RE: SY 2024–25 Assessment & Accountability Program Information

Using data as a basis for information gathering and decision making is a core component of New Mexico’s Multi-Layered System of Supports and school improvement. The New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) encourages school leaders to identify local instructional priorities and to design a local, balanced assessment system (e.g., formative assessment strategies, progress monitoring, universal screening, interim/benchmarking, summative) aligned to those priorities. While Local Education Agencies (LEAs) have the flexibility to include additional assessments beyond state-supported and federally-required assessments, this memorandum provides clarifications and guidance for the upcoming academic year.

Establishing, Reorganizing, or Closing Schools

The accountability model for school identification, as displayed on [NM Vistas](#), begins with correctly identifying accountable schools that serve students in grades K–12. LEAs that are opening, closing, or reorganizing schools (e.g., merging K–2 building with an elementary building) for SY 2024–25, please complete and submit the [school changes form](#) by June 3, 2024.

Assessment Administration Requirements

All students must be assessed following the state’s [test assignment guidance](#). LEAs are responsible for correctly assigning and administering required state assessments to all students. The PED does not have an allowance for a parent or guardian to “opt-out” of required state assessments on behalf of their students.

Designation of District Test Coordinator, Accountability, NOVA Contacts

Each year, district and charter school leaders must formally designate the primary and secondary District Test Coordinator (DTC) and Technology Coordinator per 6.10.7 NMAC to oversee official assessment business and to gain access to secure test management portals. A current list of DTCs is [here](#). All superintendents and charter school administrators must complete [this](#) DTC and accountability contact designation form for SY 2024–25 by June 3, 2024.

Fall Assessment and Accountability Conference

The Assessment, Research, Evaluation, and Accountability (AREA) Division will be hosting the [Fall 2024 Assessment and Accountability Conference](#) on September 9–10, 2024 at Isleta Resort in Albuquerque. This conference is an opportunity for district test coordinators to fulfill their required annual training requirements per 6.10.7 NMAC. The conference will include best practices and current research in assessment and accountability. Conference attendees will include DTCs, instructional leaders, LEA accountability data managers, and administrators.

2024 Assessment Calendar and Training Schedule

The SY 2024–25 draft assessment schedule is available at [Assessment Schedule 2024–25](#). Additionally, a preliminary [2024–25 DTC Assessment Training Schedule](#) is available.

Assessment Aligned to Content Standards

All state assessments are aligned to current New Mexico-adopted content standards.

Assessment	State-adopted Content Standards
ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs	WIDA’s English Language Development Standards
New Mexico Measures of Student Success and Achievement (NM-MSSA)	Common Core State Standards (CCSS) Language Arts and Mathematics
SAT School Day	
SBA Spanish Language Arts	Spanish Language Arts Standards
Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alternate Assessment	Essential Elements in Language Arts , Mathematics , and Science
New Mexico Assessment of Science Readiness (NM-ASR)	New Mexico STEM Ready! Science Standards

Additional information including fact sheets, test blueprints, state-adopted Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) and scale scores, accommodations information, and practice test resources can be found within the Educator Resources sections of PED's [Assessment website](#).

New Partnerships and Supports for LEAs

Early Development Instrument (EDI) and the Childhood Experiences Questionnaire (CHEQ)

The New Mexico PED, in partnership with the Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD), have contracted with the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Center for Healthier Children, Families, and Communities to administer the Early Development Instrument (EDI) and the Childhood Experiences Questionnaire (CHEQ). The [EDI](#) meets the kindergarten assessment required by the NMAC 6.30.5.12 ([see EDI memorandum dated February 15, 2024](#)) and replaces the KOT (Kindergarten Observation Tool).

The CHEQ is a parent/caregiver survey that will provide important contextual information about children's early experiences prior to kindergarten. The CHEQ will be administered to parents this fall. A subcommittee of the AAAC is helping advise the PED and ECECD on how best to collect this survey data from parents/caregivers. More information on the CHEQ administration will be communicated to LEAs at the start of the school year.

State Specified Interim Assessments for Designated Schools

Schools identified as Comprehensive Support and Improvement School (CSI) and More Rigorous Interventions (CSI-MRI) from the 2022-23 accountability cycle are required to utilize a PED-approved interim assessment. PED Assessment will be in contact with these designated schools by July 1.

Screeners and Progress Monitoring Tools

WIDA Screener for English Learner Identification

The WIDA Screener for Kindergarten and the WIDA Screener for Grades 1–12 are the only PED-approved English language proficiency screening assessments. These screening assessments are part of the English learner identification process for K–12 students entering public education for the first time. Please contact Shannon Whitney at shannon.whitney@ped.nm.gov with questions on the English learner identification process and the WIDA Screeners.

Dyslexia Screening for First 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; student responses are entered online by the teacher; one subtest has a printable PDF)
- Istation's ISIP (Spanish screener; same as ISIP for first grade online)
- IDEL (Spanish screener; printable PDF)

Screener training and printable materials are available in [Canvas](#) as self-paced course modules. Please contact Christy Quesada at christine.quesada@ped.nm.gov for questions related to dyslexia screening requirements.

Gifted Screening for All Students by Third Grade

Per [6.31.3 NMAC: Gifted and Talented Students](#), all New Mexico students should be screened for gifted by the end of the third grade. Each LEA should establish procedures for this universal screening process. Additional information regarding various gifted screeners and assessments can be obtained by contacting Christopher Vian at christopher.vian@ped.nm.gov. For LEAs in need of training on gifted assessment, screening, and identification processes, please reach out to Christopher Vian at the above email address.

K–2 Early Literacy & Early Math Progress Monitoring

Istation’s Indicators of Progress early literacy in English and Spanish language arts in grades K–2 and math assessments in grades K–2 will continue to be required statewide for students in grades K–2. Both assessments are available to LEAs at no cost. Schools are highly encouraged to progress monitor those students scoring at Level 1 and Level 2.

3–8 Interim Assessment for Mathematics and Language Arts

All districts and charter schools serving grades 3–8 will continue to administer either a locally procured or the [state-provided interim assessment](#) (iMSSA) at the beginning-of-year, middle-of-year, and end-of-year windows for the purposes of benchmarking student progress. This interim data must be tied to the NM School DASH Annual and 90-Day Plan for all schools. PED Assessment will not require LEAs to submit summary interim assessment reports at the end of the year. Please keep in mind the reference to *state specified* interim assessments for designated schools in CSI and CSI-MRI status on page 3 of this memorandum.

Federally Required ESSA Assessments

Districts and charter schools must follow [PED test assignment guidelines](#) in order to meet federal assessment participation rates for student populations.

ACCESS for ELLs

The WIDA ACCESS for English Language Learners meets New Mexico’s federal requirement to provide an annual assessment of academic English language proficiency. It is annually administered to identified English learners in grades K–12. ACCESS for ELLs measures a student’s overall proficiency and their progress toward English proficiency in four domains: Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing. The test is based on [WIDA’s English Language Development Standards for K–12](#).

NM-MSSA

The New Mexico Measures of Student Success and Achievement (NM-MSSA) is New Mexico’s statewide summative assessment for mathematics and language arts and is administered at the end of grades 3–8. The NM-MSSA is designed to measure students’ proficiency in grade-level New Mexico Common Core State Standards.

NM-ASR

The New Mexico Assessment of Science Readiness (NM-ASR) is New Mexico's statewide summative assessment for science. The standards require the integration of Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts to explain phenomena and solve problems. The NM-ASR is designed to measure students' proficiency in the New Mexico [STEM Ready! Science Standards](#) in grades 5, 8, and 11.

SAT School Day

The SAT is a national assessment developed by The College Board and aligned to New Mexico's high school academic standards to measure knowledge and skills that can consistently predict a student's success in college and workforce training programs. All grade 11 students in New Mexico public schools are expected to participate in the spring SAT School Day, except for those students with significant cognitive disabilities who take the alternate assessment based upon an IEP. The digital SAT is composed of two sections: Reading & Writing and Math. Students have 64 minutes to complete the Reading & Writing section and 70 minutes to complete the Math section. The testing window for SAT School Day is scheduled for March 17, 2025–April 25, 2025.

Assessments in Spanish

Assessments are available in Spanish for NM-MSSA and NM-ASR for qualifying English learners. Additionally, high school ELs have the option to take the SBA Spanish Language Arts assessment in lieu of SAT School Day Reading & Writing.

Dynamic Learning Maps & Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

A small population of students with disabilities, identified as students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, are unable to participate in general education assessments. For this population of students, the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs encompass students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. These assessments are aligned to alternate academic standards that are unique to this population. The student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) must indicate placement in alternate assessments for math, ELA, and science rather than the SAT, MSSA, ASR, and general ACCESS for ELLs assessments.

National Assessment of Educational Progress

Spring 2024 NAEP results are anticipated to be reported next winter. NAEP studies for the upcoming school year are identified on the assessment calendar.

Other Curricular Assessments

Avant STAMP

All students enrolled in a state-funded Spanish bilingual multicultural education program who have not already tested and achieved Spanish language proficiency are required to complete the Avant STAMP assessment once per year to measure growth towards Spanish language proficiency. Achieving proficiency on the Avant STAMP and specific coursework requirements are one option for a student to earn the State Seal of Bilingualism and Biliteracy (SSBB). For a complete list of testable languages, please visit the Avant STAMP resources page. For further

information on options to earn the SSBB, please contact Daisy Barnard at daisy.barnard@ped.nm.gov.

Advanced Placement

The New Mexico Public Education Department strongly believes that all students should have equal access to the full benefit of Advanced Placement® (AP) coursework. AP students do college-level work in high school, and if they score a 3 or higher on the AP exam, they can earn college credit. The PED will again cover a large portion of the exam fee for economically disadvantaged students under the College Board's AP Exam Fee Reduction guidelines, resulting in a total cost to students of \$3 per exam. The testing window for AP exams is scheduled for May 2025 and will be added to the testing calendar. More information and deadlines concerning the NM Fee Reduction Program are available at www.APNewMexico.org.

PSAT/NMSQT

The New Mexico Public Education Department will pay for all New Mexico public school grade 10 students to take the [PSAT/NMSQT](#) (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) assessment during the testing window from October 1–31, 2024. Participation in the PSAT/NMSQT is voluntary, and each school and district can determine participation. To take advantage of this opportunity and place your order, go to the [PSAT/NMSQT coordinator/ordering site](#). For more information on PSAT/NMSQT testing, please contact Dr. Melissa DeLaurentis at melissa.delarentis@ped.nm.gov.

For general questions about Assessments, Accountability, or the current 2024–25 Assessment program requirements, please contact us at PED.Assessment@ped.nm.gov or PED.Accountability@ped.nm.gov.

Cc: Amanda DeBell, Deputy Secretary of Teaching, Learning, and Innovation
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