

Intradistrict Communication

DATE: Thursday, April 2, 2020

TO: All Principals

FROM: Shelley Nordick, Ph.D., Administrator of Teaching and Learning
Ben Jameson, Director of Evaluation, Research and Accountability

SUBJECT: End of Year State Testing Updates

The Utah State Board of Education released the following updates for the various end-of-year state summative assessments:

USBE Assessment & Accountability: Covid-19 Plans & Considerations

On March 19, 2020 the Utah State Board of Education voted to suspend the requirements for schools to administer statewide assessments for the 2019-2020 school year and directed the Superintendent to pursue all related and necessary waivers with the U.S. Department of Education. The suspension of the requirement does not prohibit schools from administering the assessments when they can be administered in accordance with the Testing Ethics policy.

Below is a list of assessments that are available to all or some Utah publicly educated students. This information is being provided to assist LEA staff in making local assessment decisions.

- **ACT (grade 11)** – Several adjustments and flexibilities have been made to increase the likelihood that all Utah Juniors will have the opportunity to take an ACT exam. Those adjustments and flexibilities are described below.
 - The March 24th, April 7th, and April 21st ACT administrations have been cancelled.
 - Vouchers will be provided to LEAs for 11th grade students who have not already taken the state-funded 11th grade ACT by the end of the 2019-2020 school year. The vouchers will be available in two sets. The first set will be sent to LEAs during the 3rd week in April. Vouchers in the first set can be used by students to register for the June 13th or July 18th national test dates. A second set of vouchers will be distributed to LEAs in mid-August. Vouchers in the second set can be used by students to register for the September 12th or October 24th national test dates. High schools should begin compiling a list of 11th grade students who did not take the ACT on Mar. 3rd and who are requesting a voucher to take their “free ACT.” More

information on this process will be forthcoming throughout the next several weeks.

- **Utah Aspire Plus (grades 9-10)** – The Utah Aspire Plus summative test will not be available for Spring 2020.
 - The Utah Aspire Plus summative assessment window has been closed for the 2019-2020.
 - Utah Core Standards Benchmarks – The Benchmarks are open through June 30th, but they should still be administered **only in the school setting**, and not at home, since they are considered secure tests.
- **RISE (grades 3-8)** – The window is March 17 through June 12, 2020.
 - The RISE summative assessments window will be open through June 12, 2020. They can only be administered in the school setting, under active proctoring.
 - RISE Benchmarks- Open now through June 12th, but they should still be **administered only in the school setting**, and not at home, since they are considered secure tests.
- **DLM/UAA (grades 3-11)**- The testing window will be open until June 12th, 2020. DLM student loads will continue throughout the window.
 - Remember, if an LEA and/or school decides to have students still participate in the regular assessment, students who participate in the alternate assessment will follow that same decision.
- **WIDA (grades K-12)** (finished) - No impact for schools and students. Materials need to be shipped back and the LEA Data validation is coming up at the end of this month, March 31, 2020 - April 4, 2020.
- **Acadience Reading (grades K-6)**- If schools would like to administer an end of year benchmark assessment the window will be open April 15th - June 15th.
- **KEEP (Kindergarten)** – If schools would like to administer KEEP Exit the window will be open during the last 4 weeks of school.
- **PEEP (Preschool)** - If schools would like to administer PEEP Exit the window will be open during the last 4 weeks of school.
- **AAPPL (DLI)** – No impact for schools and students. The window was completed in December 2019.
- **NAEP** - NAEP 2020 Long Term Trend Assessments for age 17 were canceled.
- **AP** – The College Board works directly with schools to provide Advanced Placement courses and assessments.
 - (AP program) is planning to communicate information on additional supports available to support virtual learning to help support schools experiencing school closure. This information will be communicated directly to schools and posted on [AP Central](#).
 - For the 2019-2020 exam administration only, the College Board will be allowing students to complete their [AP tests from home](#). They are developing a secure 45-minute online free-response exam for each course.
 - If schools have questions, AP Coordinators can call AP Services at 877-274-6474.

- **IB** – International Baccalaureate works directly with schools to offer courses and the associated assessments. For current information about these assessments visit the [IB website](#).
 - IB has extended submission uploads for internal assessments but is NOT changing May testing dates. Students who prefer to take their exams in November should work with their school’s IB coordinator to arrange for November testing.
- **CTE skills tests** - These tests do not have a predetermined administration window (available 24/7/365) and can be given when students are ready to take them. Students should NOT be given access to the system to test from home. These are secure tests that must be given in a secure, proctored environment.
 - General Financial Literacy is provided by the same vendor. The same rules and flexibilities apply.

Working from the belief that schools will be back in session and that we will be able to finish out the school year in a something-close-to-normal fashion, the Board’s decision simply suspends the “requirements” of testing. When we resume to a normal school environment, teachers can determine if they feel their students are ready to take the CTE assessments – and if so, the system will be ready for them.

- **Civics Exam** – In order to receive a [Utah high school diploma](#), students must successfully complete the Basics Civics Test requirement. Some have asked if the Board’s decision to suspend statewide assessments includes this provision. This requirement doesn’t meet that definition of statewide assessment because it is not included in [R277-404](#), doesn’t require active proctoring as defined in the [Testing Ethics policy](#) , and doesn’t fall under the requirements of Peer Review.

Note: No virtual [proctoring](#) is currently allowed for statewide assessments. All statewide assessments must be delivered in an in-person school setting.