



# October

## ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Writing Field Test

Gadsden ISD

OCTOBER 2018

- What:** ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Writing Field Test
- Who:** Tier A and B/C ELL students in Grades 1-12
- When:** Grades 1-3: Nov 14, 2018 to February 15, 2019  
Grades 4-12: December 3, 2018 to March 1, 2019
- Time:** 30 minutes maximum per test session

Fall Dates to Remember

- SBA Science—10/29—11/16
- SBA L/A 11-28
- PARCC HS 11-13 TBD
- HS EOC 12/3—12/20
- WIDA FIELD TEST—NOV and DEC

OUR GOAL IS TO BE COMPLETED WITH FIELD TESTING BY DECEMBER 21st

All schools that participate with 25 or more students will receive \$100 to be used for school supplies.

Grades 1-3 responses are handwritten, and Grades 4-12 responses are keyboarded. This field test may be administered before or after operational ACCESS for ELLs 2.0.

This is an excellent opportunity for students and test administrators to practice for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0!



IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY SUBMITTED YOU PARTICIPATION NUMBERS OR DECLINED OFFICIALLY PLEASE DO SO ASAP. The deadline given was November 8th for an estimation but please submit by October 26th if at all possible in order to expedite shipping.

PER NMPED ALL WIDA TEST ADMINISTRATORS MUST CERTIFY FOR THE TESTS THEY WILL BE GIVING: KINDER, ONLINE 1-12, ALTERNATIVE, ETC. TA's MUST PASS WITH AT LEAST AN 80% PROFICIENCY

Non-Disclosure Agreement is embedded in the quizzes

XXXXXX has read and agreed to the WIDA Non-Disclosure and User Agreement (NDUA) for the current academic year that started on July 1. [WIDA Non-Disclosure and User Agreement \(NDUA\)](#)

# PARTICIPATION IN STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS

Taking the annual state assessment as required by Federal and state law is an essential part of measuring and supporting students' academic growth. Without the information gathered from these assessments, teachers and schools are less equipped to best support individual students' learning needs. Assessments provide important information to educators and families regarding their students' academic progress. The required math and English language arts assessment for students in grades 3-11 is the PARCC assessment. Students in grades 4, 7, and 11 will take an assessment in science, the Standards Based Assessment (SBA) Science.

## **What does the law say about student participation in the state assessment?**

### **Federal Law**

Federal law requires that all students in a tested grade participate in the annual statewide assessment. Recent guidance "requires each State educational agency (SEA) that receives funds under Title I, Part A of the ESEA to implement in each local educational agency (LEA) in the State a set of high-quality academic assessments that includes, at a minimum, assessments in mathematics and reading/language arts administered in each of grades 3 through 8 and not less than once during grades 10 through 12; and in science not less than once during grades 3 through 5, grades 6 through 9, and grades 10 through 12. Furthermore, ESEA sections 1111(b)(3)(C)(i) and (ix)(I) require State assessments to 'be the same academic assessments used to measure the achievement of all children' and 'provide for the participation in such assessments of all students.' ***These requirements do not allow students to be excluded from statewide assessments. Rather, they set out the legal rule that all students in the tested grades must be assessed.***"

The guidance from the federal government warns that schools, districts and states that fail to meet testing requirements will be at risk of losing millions of dollars in federal funds.

Please see the most recent federal guidance here:

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/stateletters/eseadclpartrate12222015.pdf>

### **New Mexico Law**

New Mexico statute (NMSA 1978, §22-2C-4) states: "All students shall participate in the academic assessment program." By law, all students without an exemption for medical reasons are required to take the state assessment. The statute **does not** offer an exemption or right of refusal. The "academic assessment program" referred to in the statute is defined as the annual state assessments in specific subject areas (i.e., the SBA or PARCC). As such, all eligible students are expected to participate in the state assessment.

Please refer to the following link for the full text of the relevant New Mexico state law (NMSA 22-2C-4): <http://ped.state.nm.us/ped/GradDocs/requirement/NMSA%2022-2C-4.pdf>.

## **How much time is spent on testing?**

Tests that are mandated by the state include the state's annual assessments in math and English language arts for grades 3 through high school (known previously as SBA, now PARCC), and end-of-course (EOC) exams for all courses offered for high school credit. Overall, New Mexico has reduced state required testing time from 2010- 2015 by 2.5 hours (across all grades). Within the last year, PARCC testing was reduced by an average of 90 minutes per grade level.

If your child is taking other assessments that are not on the list of state required assessments, this is at the direction of your child's teacher, principal, or district leadership. If this is the case, you may consider asking your child's teacher the purpose of these additional assessments. Quality assessments are a powerful tool for educators and parents, and are part of instructional best practice. It is important as a parent to understand the role that any assessment plays in your child's learning.

## **What happens when a student doesn't participate in the state assessment?**

The state assessment provides valuable information about a student's learning and progress to teachers, schools and parents. Specifically, the information from the state assessment helps to inform teachers and schools about a student's academic growth, whether a student is "on grade level" in key subject area such as reading and math, and, as a result, the areas where a student may need extra support and instruction. Without the information gathered from the state assessment, our teachers and schools lose a valuable tool to identify and support an individual student's learning needs.

In addition, the information provided by the state assessment allows teachers and parents to know with confidence how their student is doing in comparison with students in other classrooms and schools across the state and, soon, across the nation.

Second, the annual state assessments fulfill several key high school graduation requirements. While there are alternative measures to fulfill graduation requirements (called alternative demonstrations of competency that are determined by individual districts), not taking the state assessments will limit students' opportunities to fulfill graduation requirements and may jeopardize their ability to graduate on time.

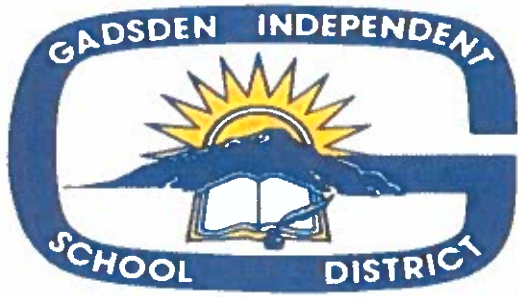
Testing for younger students helps prepare them for more rigorous coursework and to remain "on track" for success in college or a career by providing their teachers and schools with information to help them better meet their academic needs. This information is used to provide the necessary instructional supports to ensure that they are on track to be able to tackle higher level coursework.

By law, all students without an exemption for medical reasons are required to take the state assessment, and the law does not provide for opting out of the statewide assessment outside of medical reasons. Any further questions should be directed to local school districts or schools.

## **What happens to schools when students don't participate in the state assessment?**

Recent Federal guidance reinforces that over 95% of New Mexico's students must participate in annual assessments in order to maintain federal education funding. The guidance from the federal government warns that schools, districts, and states that fail to meet the 95% requirement will be at risk of losing millions of dollars in federal funds.

Also, if a school does not meet the 95% requirement, their A-F school letter grade will be reduced by one grade (for example, a school with a grade of B would automatically receive a grade of C). Refusing to have your student participate in the statewide assessment may impact your school's overall grade.



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please be sure to certify all TA's through WIDA. If you need access for them please contact Tori Gilpin

**Please submit your medical exemptions!**

Please submit your training agendas, sign-ins, and confidentiality agreements as soon as they are complete! FALL and SPRING, you may place them in the folders on the server.

The PEARSON training site is still linked to the 17-18 school year. It could be updated as early as next week for practice testing with the current year.



**GADSDEN INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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SLRT forms and SBA accommodation forms have been sent to you via this email. Since the vendor did not change from Measured Progress for the Science assessment the forms are the same as last year. Remember these are to be kept on your campus for 5 years.

If a student attended kindergarten, that year will count as the first recognized year in U.S. schools. As such, a student who enters school in kindergarten may test in Spanish through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and could continue testing in Spanish with a waiver in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades. This student will be required to test in English in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. **REMEMBER TO ACCOUNT FOR RETENTIONS.**

Counting kindergarten as a school year for the purposes of testing in Spanish went into effect 2015-2016 school year. When completing waivers, please pay particular attention to your 5<sup>th</sup> graders, noting that they are not eligible for a waiver if they attended U.S. school in kindergarten and have been in U.S. schools each consecutive year since regardless of the fact that they may have used a 1<sup>st</sup> waiver during the 14-15 school year.

Spanish-speaking students may take accountability assessments in Spanish for their first 3 consecutive years in U.S. schools. Waivers of testing in English, which allow students to continue testing in Spanish, are available for students in their 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> years in U.S. schools.

Waivers will be due to this office no later than the 3rd of December. You may submit them through the file server folders online.

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