

Students & Families Assessment Information

SPRING 2021 ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS AND FLEXIBLE TESTING OPTIONS



The purpose of this document is to inform parents on the status of spring 2021 summative assessments and provide guidance when considering the flexible testing allowances.

What are the federally required annual assessments?

- ACCESS for English Language Learners (ELLs) to measure English language proficiency for students who are identified as English Learners.
- Students whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams have determined that the general education assessment is not appropriate, even with accommodations in place, will take the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) assessment. DLM will measure math and language arts in grade 3–8 and 11 and in grades 5, 8, and 11 for science.
- English learners with significant cognitive disabilities will take the Alternate ACCESS in place of ACCESS.
- New Mexico Measures of Student Success and Achievement (NM-MSSA) to measure mastery of math and language arts in grades 3–8.
- The SAT will measure math and language arts in grade 11.
- New Mexico Assessment of Science Readiness (NM-ASR) will measure science proficiency in grades 5, 8, and 11.

What is the status this year with these assessments?

- The New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) is initiating a formal request to the U.S. Department of Education to waive federally required statewide assessment activities for the 2020–21 school year, and instead, allow NMPED to work with schools in a flexible testing model.

- In this flexible testing model, all assessments will need to be administered securely, proctored in person, and take place at a school site. Schools will have the flexibility to allow families to participate in all testing or partial testing without penalty or concern of negatively impacting students.
- Given the priority of ensuring student, staff, and community safety, NMPED recognizes that certain circumstances may prevent schools from testing. No family should be required to have a student participate in state testing in light of health concerns or perceived risks.

Can I still request to have my child assessed this year?

- Yes, in the flexible testing model, all families and students should have access to testing. Options for testing will vary and districts/schools should share information about allowances with the community. Please reach out to your school administrator for questions.

Are there other resources available to my child?

- Yes, parents are encouraged to inquire about these resources with their child's school.
 - » [Dynamic Learning Maps](#) for grades 3–HS for students with significant cognitive disabilities
 - » [Istation's Indicators of Progress \(ISIP\)](#) for grades K–2 (ELA, Math, SLA) Cognia for grades 3–8 (ELA, Math, STEM)
 - » College Board's [Khan Academy flyer](#) for high school students
 - » [Formative Assessment Resources for Parents](#) Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
 - » [Formative Assessment Practices for Distance Learning](#), Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

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ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) EXAMS

College Board has announced a revised and flexible schedule for the 2021 AP exam administration. See www.cb.org/ap2021 for complete details.

Highlights include:

- There are now three testing windows for 2021 AP exam administration: **May 3–17, May 18–8, and June 1–11.**
- The first exam administration is comprised of full-length, paper-and-pencil exams, administered in person, in schools.
- The second and third testing windows include full-length exams, but include provisions for some exams to be taken in a digital format, either in-school or at-home.
- College Board will allow schools to mix and match across the testing options as needed.
- Digital exams must be taken on desktops, laptops, or Chromebooks with the Exam App installed and a camera activated.
- College Board will provide additional details in March.

CHANGES TO COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

- For those students who do participate in the SAT School Day this spring, our protocols for conducting SAT testing will look different this year in order to protect the health and safety of our students and teachers. Here are some steps we have taken to keep students and staff safe during the tests:
 - » College Board added additional health and safety procedures during testing.
 - » Additional testing windows have been added.
- For information about weekend SAT/ACT testing for this spring, please visit this [guidance document](#).
- As students and colleges adapt to new realities and changes to the college admissions process, the College Board is making the following changes:
 - » **Discontinuing SAT Subject Tests.** The expanded reach of AP and its widespread availability for low-income students and students of color means the Subject Tests are no longer necessary for students to show what they know.
 - » **Discontinuing the optional SAT Essay for weekend testing. After June 2021,** the Essay will only be available in states where it's required for SAT School Day administrations for accountability purposes.

