### Questions

**1. Who has to take the assessments?**

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Section 1111(b)(2) requires:

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each State plan shall demonstrate that the State educational agency, in consultation with local educational agencies, has implemented a set of high quality student academic assessments in mathematics, reading or language arts, and science. The State retains the right to implement such assessments in any other subject chosen by the State.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The assessments under subparagraph (A) shall—

(i) except as provided in subparagraph (D) [this allows for the alternate assessment], be—

(I) the same academic assessments used to measure the achievement of all public elementary school and secondary school students in the State; and

(II) administered to all public elementary school and secondary school students in the State;

...  

(v)

(I) in the case of mathematics and reading or language arts, be administered—

(aa) in each of grades 3 through 8; and

(bb) at least once in grades 9 through 12;

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**2. How does HB 166 impact the Federal legislation described in #1 above?**

The NH DOE has received many questions regarding HB 166, a law passed by the NH legislature in 2017. Please see our Technical Advisory on the law: [https://www.education.nh.gov/standards/documents/assessments.pdf](https://www.education.nh.gov/standards/documents/assessments.pdf). The NH DOE is having discussions with the U.S. Department of Education regarding options the state may have available to ensure we are not out of compliance with the requirements in #1 above. In order to receive the Federal funds, the state and school district Superintendents have signed assurances that they will implement and follow the Federal law (ESSA) attached to those funds. Because of the conflict with HB 166, the NH DOE is strongly urging districts to continue to implement the statewide assessment as they always have per the Federal law until such time as a waiver and/or a process is approved by the U.S. Department of Education. This is an ongoing process and the NH DOE will keep stakeholders updated.
### 3. What are the statewide assessments?

All students in grades 3-8, and 11 will take the common statewide assessment for ELA/writing and mathematics.

- Grades 3-8 will take the **new** NH Statewide Assessment System (NH SAS) for English language arts (ELA)/writing and mathematics.
- Grade 11 students will continue to take the College Board School Day SAT.

All students in grades 5, 8 and 11 will also take the common statewide assessment for science. This is now the NH SAS for Science. Science is now administered in grade 5, not grade 4. **This does mean that grade 4 students who took the assessment in 2017 will take the statewide assessment again in grade 5.** The change is based on the alignment to the science standards adopted in 2016.

The NH DOE also offers the Dynamic Learning Maps Assessment (DLM) for ELA, Math and Science as the alternate assessment is for the 1% of students who are not able to participate in the regular Statewide Assessment.

ACCESS for 2.0, developed by WIDA, is New Hampshire’s language proficiency assessment. Federal law requires that all EL students who qualify for English language proficiency services must take the ACCESS 2.0 yearly until the student achieves the exit criteria set by the State.

### 4. When are the statewide assessments given?

All summative assessments (ELA/Writing, Math and Science) will be taken in the spring during the assessment window. Please see the assessment calendar on the Departments webpage at: [https://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/index.htm](https://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/index.htm)

### 5. What are the changes between the previous statewide assessment and the new NH Statewide Assessment System (SAS)?

- The NH SAS for ELA/Writing and Math are standards-based, computer adaptive tests aligned to the NH Academic Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics. The assessments are unique to NH and can be adjusted to meet NH’s needs. Previous statewide assessments were controlled by a consortium of states and could not be customized.
- Formally the assessment items were developed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. The NH SAS is developed using items from the ICCR. The ICCR item pools were developed to ensure that statewide assessments cover the full range and depth of the content standards at the aggregate level for each test administration. The ICCR item pools are constructed explicitly to support statewide assessment programs and have been administered as part of the Arizona, Florida, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, and Utah statewide assessments.

### 6. Can you provide more specifics on the implementation of the NH SAS for ELA/writing and mathematics?

- The new assessment system will function exactly like the Smarter Balanced (SBA) for ELA/writing and mathematics as it uses the same assessment portal. You will not see any changes to registration, sign-on for students or test administrators, etc. for either the summative or the interim assessments.
- As in years past, all testing personnel and those with access to the TIDE Portal will need to create a new
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<th>7. Can you provide more specifics on the implementation of the NH SAS for science?</th>
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| • The window or test period for science will be the same as ELA/writing and mathematics. The assessments can be scheduled by your school at any time during the assessment window (March 13 – June 8, 2018).
| • No more science labels! Students are automatically registered through the i4See system. This is the same system you have been using for the past several years for the ELA/writing and mathematics assessments. Schools do not have to do anything to add the science assessment. That process is handled here at the NH DOE.
| • The assessment will be administered in the same manner as ELA/writing and mathematics assessments. The science assessment is taken on the computer in testing portal; however, it is not a computer adaptive test. This means the questions will not adapt based on the student response.
| • The science assessment has been developed using what is called a matrix format meaning that students will be presented with different questions. All questions are aligned to the test blueprint which is based on the NH Academic Standards for Science.
| • Questions are constructed so that they represent the full range of DoK (depth of knowledge) and are parallel across the matrix of test items delivered to students.
| • Test scales and performance levels are equivalent from form to form.
| • Science scores will not be available until after standard setting takes place as this is the first year NH will assess students using the new science standards. We anticipate that science scores will be available in late summer.
| • The science assessment scores will not align with the former NECAP scores as the standards being assessed have changed. The 2018 science scores will become baseline scores for future analysis. |

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<th>8. Will teachers still have access to interim assessment? If so, can you provide more information on implementation?</th>
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| • There are no changes to the delivery of interim assessments from the previous assessment.
| • Hand-scoring has been eliminated. All responses will be automatically scored with data available within minutes of test completion.
| • Interim blocks can be selected by individual teachers at any time during the interim assessment window. We anticipate the window opening at the end of November. This will be much earlier next year as it was delayed due to the long procurement process.
| • There are multiple interim block assessment forms available this year for each strand within a content area (last year only one was available for each strand). |
- Interim results will continue to be reported in AIRWays and will be available within minutes of test completion. If your school used AIRWays last year, you know the power of the system. In AIRWays, teachers are able to see individual items, individual responses, and class performance data. If you have not used AIRWays and the interim assessments we encourage you to give it a try. Please feel free to contact us at the NH DOE and we are happy to come to your school to assist.

9. **What do schools do next to prepare?**

- The NH SAS Portal (formally the SBA Portal) will be available soon. Once we announce it is open, please have all staff access the portal to set up their annual password.
- All user guides, administration manuals, practice tests, etc. will be available on the portal.
- The regular annual trainings will be held November 6 – 8, 2017, in the following regional locations:
  - Exeter
  - Plymouth
  - Concord
  - Manchester/Bedford
- Specific information, including times and exact locations, and registration information will be posted on the NH SAS Portal.
- **These trainings booked to capacity early last year!**
- Additional trainings will be provided for the administration of the science assessment as this is a new format. Information will be posted on the NH SAS Portal.

10. **Can you provide more information about the assessment item validity?**

The assessment items in the ICCR (Independent College and Career Readiness) item bank have gone through a rigorous validation process and have been benchmarked with the NAEP, TIMSS, and PISA. The ICCR item bank being used for the NH SAS is used to construct assessments in Arizona, Florida, Ohio, Tennessee and Utah. An example of a validation study from Arizona can be found in Appendix G of the AIR proposal located at: [https://www.education.nh.gov/rfp/documents/proposal_air091317.pdf](https://www.education.nh.gov/rfp/documents/proposal_air091317.pdf).