

Frank Edelblut
Commissioner



Christine M. Brennan
Deputy Commissioner

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Date: March 25, 2022
To: School Principal/Building Administrator
CC: Superintendent of Schools
District Test Coordinators
From: Office of the Commissioner
Bureau of Instructional Support, Office of Academics & Assessment
RE: Statewide Assessment Participation 2022

Recently, the New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE) was contacted by the U.S. Department of Education's (USED) Office of Elementary and Secondary Education to discuss the participation rates in the 2021 NH statewide assessments for the 2020-2021 school year. U.S. Congressional leadership requested that USED engage states that had statewide participation rates below 75%. While NH demonstrated 80% statewide participation in the ELA and 81% statewide participation in Math, the Science statewide participation rate was at 72%.

Many NH teachers, school staff, and administrators worked tirelessly to administer and make the 2021 assessments accessible to all students during the COVID-19 pandemic. To support their efforts, NHDOE exercised significant flexibility allowable by USED including allowing remote NHSAS assessments, extended ACCESS testing windows, and additional SAT testing dates. Additionally, NHDOE submitted a 2021 waiver to USED and received approval for the following:

"Accountability and school identification requirements in ESEA sections 1111(c)(4) and 1111(d)(2)(C)-(D): the requirements that a State measure progress toward long-term goals and measurements of interim progress; meaningfully differentiate, on an annual basis, all public schools, including by adjusting the Academic Achievement indicator based on a participation rate below 95 percent; and identify schools for comprehensive, targeted, and additional targeted support and improvement based on data from the 2020- 2021 school year."

USED communicated that no such flexibilities or waivers will apply to the 2021-2022 school year and 2022 assessments. Under the 95% district and school participation requirement, any students who opt out of the 2022 assessment below 95% district and school participation requirement will be counted as zero scores. Given this engagement, we anticipate U.S. Congressional Leadership and USED will be looking closely at each state's 2022 assessment statewide, district, and school participation rates.

NHDOE appreciates your continued commitment to ensuring a successful administration of and full participation in the 2022 assessments. Please contact the NHDOE's Office of Academics & Assessment at Assessment@doe.nh.gov for additional support and technical assistance.

Sincerely,

Frank Edelblut
Commissioner of Education