

Office of Academics & Assessment Fall 2020 Assessment Guidance

The transition to remote instruction in the spring of 2020 caused by the COVID-19 pandemic was unprecedented and we are proud of the hard work of our teachers, administrators and students that made the transition so that all NH public school districts were able to implement remote instruction in spring of 2020ⁱ.

As schools begin to plan for reopening in the fall and develop models of instruction to support students, it is important to consider that in the 2019-2020 school year, students attended and completed two-thirds of the year. In addition, we already have a lot of information about our students including past assessment results, previous report cards and progress reports, attendance reports, data provided by counselors, interventionists and special education teachers, and parent feedback.

With this in mind, the NH Department of Education is providing guidance to support public and charter schools with preparing for a range of assessments in the fall, in order to gain a perspective on the needs of students in New Hampshire from the systemic level down to the individual level.

As an educational community, we are responsible for ensuring that all of our students are safe, have the social and emotional support they need, have access to nutritional sources and have equality in the opportunity to learn. The NH Dept. of Education requires that public and charter schools provide students equitable access to several assessments in Fall 2020. The NH SAS Interims, the DLM Instructionally Embedded Assessments and the SAT School Day with Essay. The information provided by these assessments will allow local school leaders, parents, state leaders and communities to prioritize resources and supports while ensuring that all students have equitable access to instruction and educational opportunitiesⁱⁱ.

Fall 2020 Dates

Assessment	Grade Level	Content	Testing Window/Dates
NH SAS Interim Assessments (schools required to administer)	4 – 8*	English Language Arts & Mathematics	October 1 – October 31
SAT School Day with Essay (schools required to administer)	12	English Language Arts & Mathematics	September 23 October 14 October 27 (revised makeup date)
DLM Instructionally Embedded Assessments (optional)	4 – 8, 12	English Language Arts & Mathematics	September 14 – October 31
NH SAS Modular Assessments (optional)	3-8 5, 8, 11	English Language Arts & Mathematics Science	September 22 – October 31

*Students will take the previous grade level interim assessment.

All assessments are at no cost to schools/districts. Remote administration and remote proctoring administration available for NH SAS.

Professional development and trainings are available on administering the assessments as well as utilizing data at no cost to schools/districts.

NH SAS Interim and Benchmark Module Assessments

The NH Statewide Assessment System (NH SAS) in addition to the spring summative assessment offers interim and modular assessments that can be utilized at no cost by all NH public and charter schools.

They allow educators to elicit evidence of student learning to inform teaching and learning and evaluate grade level instructional progress in relation to the common core standards. It is a light footprint, takes less time and is easy to administer. It also provides students the opportunity to use the testing platform and accessibility supports with actual test items.

These assessments can be administered remotely or in the classroom. The remote administration feature allows the classroom teacher to interface with students live, so they can access the assessment easily. Schools and districts choose whether to administer the assessments in the classroom, remotely or a hybrid of both.

The NH Dept. of Education will provide initial and ongoing professional development to districts, schools and teachers on how to fully utilize the interim and modular assessments, analyze assessment results to guide instructional practice and deepen teacher content knowledge, at no cost to districts. The modular assessments are an optional resource provided to districts.

Interim Assessments are:

- Computer adaptive
- Approximately 30 items per test (shorter than Summative test)
- Unlimited test opportunities/can be administered unlimited number of times
- 100% machine-scored
- Reported in the CAI Reporting System as soon as student submits test
- Tests mimic the NH SAS Summative tests and developed under same conditions, protocols and review procedures
- Test items are secure; like the items on the summative
- Aligned to New Hampshire's Content Standards
- Can be administered remotely or in the classroom

Benchmark Module Assessments are:

- Fixed form
- Unlimited test opportunities/can be administered unlimited number of times
- 100% machine scored
- Reported in the CAI Reporting System as soon as student submits test
- Shorter tests, focused on specific, targeted content
- Assessment Viewing Application (AVA) can be used to review items before administering a particular Benchmark Module
- Aligned to New Hampshire's Content Standards
- Can be administered remotely or in the classroom

ELA and Math (tests available for grades 3 – 8; accessible to all grade levels)

- i. Interim Assessment
 - 1) Math – One test per grade
 - 2) ELA – One Reading test and one Writing test per grade; combo scored
- ii. Benchmark Module Assessment
 - 1) Total # of ELA tests: 119
 - 2) Total # of Math tests: 115

- 3) Shorter tests; focused on specific content
 - 4) Aligned to New Hampshire’s Content Standards/Common Core Standards
- Science (tests available for grades 5, 8, 11; accessible to all grade levels)

i. Benchmark Modules

- 1) Total # of Science tests: 54
- 2) Test items mostly consist of “clusters” – a series of interactions that make up the item.
- 3) Aligned to New Hampshire’s Content Standards/Next Generation Science Standards

If you need assistance or have questions about setting up the interims, please contact Michelle.Gauthier@doe.nh.gov.

SAT School Day with Essay

Schools that were set up for the school day SAT in Spring 2020 are set up for Fall 2020 SAT. When ordering from College Board, please be sure to select SAT with Essay to ensure that the school is not charged a fee. Please contact Michelle.Gauthier@doe.nh.gov with any questions.

Assessment Date Choices	September 23, 2020	October 14, 2020
Ordering Window	June 2 - August 25	June 2 - September 16
Accommodations Due	August 7	August 25
EL Extended Time Request	August 25	September 16
Test Materials to Schools	September 15-17	October 7-9
Window to Order Makeup Test Materials	September 23-25	October 14-16
Accommodated Testing Window	September 23-October 6	October 14-27
Revised Make-up Date	October 27	October 27
Scores Available	Mid-October	Early November

ACCESS 2.0 for English Learners

The majority of English learning students in NH were able to participate in the ACCESS test in Spring 2020. For the students that were not able to complete all domains of the assessment but may be able to exit, an opportunity to complete the ACCESS will be available to those students in Fall 2020. Please contact Wendy Perron, EL Education Consultant at Wendy.Perron@doe.nh.gov for more information.

Provisional Identification of students using a remote screener is available through ACCESS. Please contact Wendy.Perron@doe.nh.gov for more information.

Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Instructionally Embedded Assessments

The DLM Instructionally Embedded Assessments are computer delivered alternative assessments that are intended to integrate classroom instruction and assessment in a cycle throughout the year. Teachers have the flexibility in the selection of Essential Elements and linkage levels and the delivery of testlets so that it can be customized for each student. Reports provide assessment results to inform future instructional decisions.

DLM alternate assessment is for students identified with severe cognitive disabilities. Please ensure that an [Accommodations and Alternative Assessment Decision Making Worksheet](#) is completed to determine if a student is eligible for the alternative assessment.

Professional Development

The Department will continue to provide **professional development** for schools on administering assessments, developing formative assessments, and utilizing assessment results to inform instruction.

- [Demonstrated Success](#)
 - Remote instruction webinars
 - How to Administer the NH SAS Interims & Modulars

- CAST - **UDL Assessment Video Modules:** <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIF3m0HAU305DkOThHc5A7S2O4WInE1fP>
 - Intro to Assessments: <https://youtu.be/akMRUeEkiQw>
 - Evaluating Assessments: <https://youtu.be/CIKMswbiw6c>
 - Grade Level Video: K–2: <https://youtu.be/Xp8uheMHRW8>
 - Grade Level Video: 3–5: <https://youtu.be/R8S-GhQ57oE>
 - Grade Level Video: 6–8: <https://youtu.be/col3DbdgyZ0>
 - Grade Level Video: 9–12: <https://youtu.be/1S-XMqQwq60>
 - Accompanying Playbook: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vLrQ8VzZ1HUg4ZhZDP3osJt-mAKsIst0ON_ruCmGgws/edit?usp=sharing

- The Department can also coordinate tailored assessment PD for your district/school, free of charge.

Office of Academics & Assessment

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ⁱ www.nhlearnsremotely.com lists a chart with the results of the survey collected on remote instruction from superintendents and charter schools in March 2020.

ⁱⁱ The Council of Chief State School Officers released *Restart & Recovery: Assessment Considerations for Fall 2020* on July 14, 2020. The Department developed this guidance consulting the recommendations provided by CCSO.