

Office of Academic and Assessments

Spring 2021 Assessments Guidance

On February 22, 2021 the US Dept. of Education released guidance to states regarding assessment and accountability for 2020-2021. USED is **requiring all states to administer the summative assessments** in Spring 2021.

Accountability and School Identification

- USED is allowing for accountability waivers for the 95% participation rate requirement and NHDOE is submitting this waiver to USDOE on April 12. Link to the waiver and public comment period is available on the [NHDOE Accountability website](#).

Transparency and Public Reporting

- USED will maintain all state and local report card requirements, including the requirements to disaggregate data by student subgroup (except for reporting related to accountability).
- As a condition of waiving accountability and school identification requirements, USED will require all states to publicly report
 - Disaggregated chronic absenteeism data and,
 - Data on student and educator access to technology devices like laptops, tablets and to high-speed internet at home (this will be provided through the ESSER grant data that is already being collected from school districts).

Assessment Flexibility Suggested by USED

- **Shortened version of the assessment** – at this point, it is too late for NH to develop a shortened version of the summative assessment, as this process takes at least a year to develop.
- **Extended Testing Window** – NH is already offering a testing window for NHSAS, ACCESS and DLM that extends to June 11, 2021. SAT will have 12 dates available, all of which can be used.
- **In Person Administration** – will be required for SAT, DLM and ACCESS tests. USED and NH Dept. of Ed do not recommend bringing in students to schools for the sole purpose of administration of assessments. If a parent chooses not to allow their child to return to in-person instruction before June 11, 2021 (for SAT before the last administration date) then that parent has the right to exempt their child from participation in the statewide assessment system.
- **Remote Administration** – this will be available on a limited basis for NHSAS tests in late May for students that are not returning to in person instruction prior to June 11, 2021. This is limited and not all accommodations will be available for remote administration. Schools are not required to administer the NHSAS remotely to remote students but the option is available for parents and schools that would like to use this method.
- **Summer/Fall Administration of Assessments** – at this time, the NH Dept. of Ed. will not be requiring schools to administer the summative assessments in the summer or fall of 2021.

Question	Answers for Consideration
<p>Why is the state testing students this year, given that instructional time is already so limited? What does the state hope to learn about student academic performance from the test results?</p>	<p>We understand the incredible challenges that students and teachers have overcome to engage in learning this year. The pandemic forced our school buildings to close and pivot to remote learning, and our students have had varied experiences. It makes measuring student learning and identifying potential gaps more important than ever.</p> <p>We must understand where students are academically to know how our schools can best meet their needs. High-quality assessments are an important tool to drive equitable outcomes for all students. We can only address the inequities, and the gaps that may have widened as a result of the pandemic, if we have accurate data on where students are, the strengths they have built, and the challenges they face.</p>
<p>Is the US Dept. of Ed. allowing for assessment waivers this year?</p>	<p>No, USED is requiring all states to administer the summative assessments.</p>
<p>Are schools required to administer all of the statewide assessments?</p>	<p>Yes, schools are required to administer and provide access to all of the required summative assessments. This includes NHSAS, DLM, ACCESS and SAT. In person administration of the SAT, ACCESS and DLM assessments is required. NHSAS remote administration will be available in late May but not required.</p>
<p>How should schools prioritize the assessments if students are in the building on a limited basis?</p>	<p>For students that are in a hybrid model for the entire school year, or will be only coming in to school to take the assessments, the NH Dept. of Ed. suggests prioritizing accordingly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACCESS test for eligible EL students in grades 3-8, followed by NHSAS Math and ELA • 11th grade students should take the School Day SAT with Essay (followed by ACCESS for EL students) • 3rd – 8th grade students NHSAS Math and ELA. • NHSAS Science for 5th, 8th and 11th graders is required but prioritize as the last administration. <p>This would not apply to students that are in full time in person instruction.</p>
<p>What if a student is not returning to in person instruction this school year but will remain in remote instruction?</p>	<p>SAT, DLM and ACCESS will be required to be administered in person. Schools are required to administer the assessments and provide students access but the NHDOE is not requiring students to return to school solely for the purpose of taking the assessments. If a parent is not comfortable with their child participating in person, they can choose to exempt their student from the assessment. Schools must provide parents/guardians with a school generated exemption form. An exemption template is provided for schools on our website.</p>
<p>Can the NHSAS Summative be administered remotely?</p>	<p>This will be available on a limited basis for NHSAS tests in late May for students that are not returning to in person instruction prior to June 11, 2021. This is limited and not all accommodations will be available for remote administration. Schools are not required to</p>

	administer the NHSAS remotely to remote students but the option is available for parents and schools that would like to use this method.
Can parents exempt their child from the assessments?	Yes, NH RSA 193-C:6 permits parents to exempt their student from participating in the required statewide assessment system. The RSA states that the school must provide the form to the parent/guardian. A template that schools can use is available on our website in English and Spanish. Schools should keep these forms for assessment monitoring.
Are schools required to provide parents with the assessment results?	Yes, RSA-193C:10 and RSA-193C:11 require schools to provide parents with the results of assessments. NHSAS, DLM, SAT and ACCESS reports can be accessed in the portal and a PDF report can be generated and emailed or printed for parents. SAT results can also be accessed via the parent portal on College Board's website.
What about the 95% participation rate requirement?	USED is offering states the ability to request an accountability waiver for the 95% participation rate requirement and NHDOE will submit this accountability waiver request to USED by April 12, 2021.
Are test proctors required to complete training again?	Testing proctors, administrators and staff that have access to secure test items are required to complete training each year for each assessment system they administer. NHSAS, DLM, SAT & ACCESS all have separate trainings that are required to be completed each year. If staff completed the training in the fall, they do not need to complete again.
Will assessment monitoring occur this year?	Yes, the NHDOE is still required to conduct assessment monitoring. The NHDOE will not conduct any onsite test monitoring (unless a breach occurs) and will only conduct desk monitoring. Identified schools will be notified by April 1, 2021 and monitoring materials will not be due until June 30, 2021.

Professional Development and training is available on the administration and utilization of data derived from our statewide assessments at no cost to districts. Please feel free to contact us for more information.

Office of Academics & Assessment

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