

Webinar: Civics Assessment Basics 12.09.24

Transcript

0:00

Civics assessment in New Hampshire.

0:02

Basic info, important information, a little bit of training on how to do stuff.

0:08

That is why we are here.

0:10

Hopefully this is exactly what you are looking for as well.

0:19

I have advanced the slide and it worked OK.

0:21

Yeah, all right, little introductions.

0:24

My name is Ashley Frame.

0:26

I started working at the department in 2013 and I have been, though wasn't when I started, the social studies contact for New Hampshire.

0:40

I'm so happy to see some faces that I know and see some names that I know as well.

0:46

Thank you for joining.

0:48

Currently, my role is the NAEP state coordinator.

0:51

If you're picked for NAEP.

0:56

Thank you so much for helping to represent our country and help us gather some data.

0:59

We really appreciate it.

1:00

I'm now going to turn it over to my colleague Michelle for her introduction.

1:05

Hello, Can you see me Ashley?

1:08

Great.

1:09

Welcome everyone.

1:10

It's nice to see you virtually.

1:12

My name is Michelle Gauthier and I have worked for the department for about 17 years now in various roles.

1:22

Ashley and I have worked together for a little bit.

1:26

I currently work in the Office of Assessment with Ashley and Kristen.

1:31

My role is Program Specialist. Kristen, please introduce yourself.

1:40

I am Kristen Crawford. I am newer to the team.

1:41

I've been with NHED for about 2 1/2 years now, and work with Michelle and Ashley and a couple others.

1:50

I work on overseeing all the statewide assessments, the accountability assessments, which this civics assessment we're about to talk about is not part of accountability system, but it is in the assessment world.

2:02

Several questions have come to the Assessment Team relating to administering the Civics Assessment.

2:05

I'm going to turn it back over to Ashley.

2:13

I'll be able to answer questions, but I'm going to be in the background while Ashley and Michelle take the lead.

2:21

Thank you so much.

2:49

I wanted to start off by saying thank you so much for being out there and holding in your space the most important things here, which are teaching and learning.

3:03

We're going to be talking about assessments today, but you can't ever separate teaching and learning from the act of assessment.

3:13

I think it's really important to remember how grateful we are for all of your work with helping our kids get better at social studies in general, but also civic specifically which we are talking about today.

3:40

There is a funny picture of myself teaching, teaching in this case to grown-ups, but I was a high school teacher for years.

4:01

There are graduation requirements, as we know in the state of New Hampshire and every local school district has graduation requirements and credits, etc.

4:13

We're specifically talking about law in New Hampshire.

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That carries with it two assessment burdens that students must bear these burdens and pass these assessments in order to graduate.

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The local school district is empowered to make some choices around these, but some things they are not.

4:37

We're here to talk today about what are those two assessments, primarily the second one, and what the NHED has to offer to help you execute on that task and make good on that law.

4:52

The two civics assessments that are required, and they're both required.

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This is kind of what's weird because the law has changed over time, and it is sometimes a little bit hard to keep track of it.

5:06

The first requirement is a locally developed competency based civics assessment.

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This is nothing new exactly, this one's been around for a while.

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The district makes decisions about how to implement and to score that competency based assessment.

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The students, however, must pass. Most districts fold that into their civics course, or if their civics is part and parcel with something else, government or part lots of other things that maybe you could pair it with humanities or mixed history class.

5:41

There are lots of creative ways to do that.

5:43

That competency based assessment must be scored by the local school district and completed for a student to graduate.

5:49

And that's all students.

5:52

I'll give you a link to the law too.

5:55

Public school, non public school, obviously our charter schools are considered public schools as well, But, and our, our, our private schools.

6:03

It's a big sweeping law.

6:07

The 2nd and students have to pass both of these is the USCIS civics assessment for high school graduation.

6:17

This is a task that has 128 questions.

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New Hampshire has opted for that full version.

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It's in the law and that's the 2020 version.

6:27

If you go try to find this on the Internet right now, you're going to find a version that has fewer questions, right?

6:34

But New Hampshire, the law is pretty, is very clear.

6:38

In fact, you'll see it that it's the 128 question version.

6:42

We have some links to share with you to make sure you get that one for practice and review.

6:49

It's very important to pay attention to that one because there are a couple floating around there of different number questions.

6:58

Thank you very much.

7:08

We're going to really talk about the second of those two, because the competency based one, that's a district decision, you have a lot of power to make your own decisions about that one.

7:16

What we're here to help you out with today is the more narrow assessment, the one that is fairly prescribed, 128 questions and we're here to offer you our testing portal, the SAS testing portal is now available for you to use with your students to meet that assessment requirement to take that USCIS civics assessment with your students, all 128 questions.

7:41

We're going to talk about that today.

7:43

Several advantages to this new tool or I guess it's not a new tool because we've had the testing, the testing software, testing capability, but now we're just opening it up to Civics.

7:56

What this does for you is that it's a convenient platform.

8:01

Your students are familiar with it and a lot of other personnel in your school or district are also familiar with it.

8:07

Maybe you are too, depending on your role in the school district.

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If you're a social studies teacher, you probably don't work with it every day, let's say.

8:16

But if you're an assessment administrator or school testing coordinator or something like that, you've definitely seen use this with your students, it also offers you some immediate scoring, automatic immediate scoring.

8:28

It takes all the guesswork out of it.

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And the most important thing probably is that the SAS testing portal allows you and your school

coordinator or other staff who might be responsible for it too, to offer students their full allowable accommodations, designated supports and other universal tools that are available to everybody, all students who take any kind of assessment on the SAS portal.

8:56

And you can personalize and select for each student ahead of the assessment.

9:02

That just makes it compliant with their IEPs and 504 plans.

9:09

It's baked into the software.

9:10

So just another advantage to using the New Hampshire SAS portal.

9:18

OK, so how do you get there?

9:22

Because if you were a social studies teacher like I was, you never use these kind of things.

9:27

I don't know if things have changed a bit, but I didn't necessarily think about access to big digital testing platforms when I was a social studies teacher.

9:38

And you might have some teachers that have a little more experience with this than you, if that's the situation you find yourself in.

9:46

If you are leading this assessment or your district opts to use the New Hampshire SAS portal to take the civics exam, before they administer, teachers need to get a TIDE user account.

10:02

TIDE is not the tides of the sea, but TIDE is a platform.

10:09

Michelle has really helped me out here by saying what it stands for because I actually had no idea.

10:22

TIDE stands for Test Information Distribution Engine.

10:29

It's a mouthful.

10:30

Basically, the TIDE system is a registration system.

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The system registers users who will administer the assessment and will also register students who will take the test.

10:43

And that's done starting with the i4see system. Your i4see coordinator uploads the beginning of year or any time of year submission right through i4see, which will then transfer over to the TIDE system.

11:01

Also, the TIDE system is used for generating and printing test tickets, which students will need to enter in their login information before they can take the test and before testing begins.

11:18

Your school or district coordinator will enter in any type of accommodations or designated supports that are applicable for students.

11:31

Thank you, Michelle. You're welcome. So, getting TIDE user accounts is very important. Once you get in there and we'll go through it, you'll see what these things look like, which is great because Kristen walked me through this just the other day.

11:45

I did it just like I was going to be a teacher, and I had never seen it before.

11:51

Once you log into this, the New Hampshire SAS portal, you are obligated to take a test administrator certification course that takes 30 minutes.

12:05

There's an obligation there to take that.

12:11

It's a blank certification for any test that we do here in the state.

12:21

Also, in this portal, that's where you can ensure that the different accommodations and those designated supports are made for each student.

12:28

And obviously the universal supports are in there for everyone.

12:31

Just to give you an example of what I mean by universal support, it could be something like magnifying the words on the screen or slightly changing the color to have a little more contrast.

12:43

Every student has access to those.

12:45

So that's what I mean by a universal support as opposed to an accommodation or designated support.

12:51

That might be Braille translation or something that's prescribed in a 504 or an IEP.

13:06

OK, let's get on to this next one.

13:10

This next bit is going to get a little bit more into what it looks like to take the test administration certification, and these next couple slides guide you through what it's going to look like when you log in and start creating that testing space for your students.

13:09

13:26

And I will again introduce Michelle Gothier.

13:31

Hi, thank you.

13:33

The first steps you need to take after you have activated your TIDE user account and set a password, the initial step is for educators to complete a 30 minute test administrator certification course.

13:49

Those are who are not familiar with New Hampshire SAS testing.

13:54

This is an annual training and it's a basic training. There's like a quiz at the end.

14:03

You're not graded on the quiz but it's very helpful.

14:06

We do acknowledge that some of the information in the course may not be applicable.

14:13

However, the course offers a step by step tutorial on how to create a test session, guides users through the testing process, and demonstrates how students log in to take the test.

14:27

And you can review this training as many times as needed.

14:38

What you'll need to do first is the school test coordinator does assign TIDE user accounts.

14:46

If you do not have a TIDE user account right now, please reach out to your school coordinator.

14:53

If you don't know who your school coordinator is, you can always reach out to the NHED and we can help you navigate that.

14:59

What you want to do when you go on to the New Hampshire SAS portal is choose your role.

15:05

Test administration is fine.

15:06

You can also choose District coordinator.

15:08

You'll get to the same exact screen and then what you will do is select Test Administration Certification.

15:18

You'll enter your username and password associated with your TIDE account. Your username will be your district or your school e-mail, just to give you a little tip there.

15:31

Once you click on Test Administration Certification, the training will pop up and you can complete the training.

15:42

Thank you.

15:45

When you're ready to administer the civics test, you will then log into the test administrator interface, and this will allow you to create a test session so your students will be able to take the test.

15:59

This slide outlines the steps to access the Test Administrator Interface, also known as TA interface.

16:07

When you select TA interface, you will administer the civics test.

16:12

The login page will appear.

16:15

Enter your username and password.

16:21

And then click login to create a test session.

16:33

Thank you, Michelle.

16:34

You're welcome.

16:35

Michelle helps people with this.

16:37

I've heard her for many years helping people with assessments and I just, I just appreciate her so much.

16:42

If any of you have ever worked with her, patience.

16:46

The next bit that you're going to do is to create the test session for your students.

16:53

Now it could be that someone else does this for you so you can reach out to them.

16:58

But, it may not.

17:08

This is where you create that test session, the actual event.

17:15

And to do that you go to active sessions, and you click start new session.

17:20

Now, the reason why we have these in here is because it's going to be what you see.

17:24

You're not doing this right now, but you will.

17:27

And then you'll be so glad.

17:28

This is the view.

17:30

You're going to pick that, and then you're going to choose a test category and that is going to be civics.

17:38

For those of you who have done these assessments here in SAS before, civics is going to pop up as relatively new.

17:45

So that's exciting.

17:48

You're going to, once you pick civics, begin a test reason.

17:53

And that test reason is test 1.

18:03

Select test one the first time you're administering the civics.

18:07

And if you're administering the civics assessment again, you can choose the test reason, test 2.

18:14

And then there's a test 3 of there's a test 4.

18:17

There're other options too.

18:18

You can choose whatever you'd like, but we recommend doing test 1 first, Test 2, 3 and four if applicable.

18:33

Another thing that we wanted to add here is that depending on the size and organization of your school, this is a little tricky to explain.

18:43

That's why we're going to skim over it.

18:46

And you will notice that we're skimming over it because every situation is a little bit different.

18:51

But this relates to rosters, the list of students that you're going to assess.

18:55

In a lot of cases, your school coordinator for NH SAS, whoever that testing or assessment coordinator is, and that person could have many roles in the building.

19:05

We're not saying that a dedicated role creates or knows how to create those class rosters.

19:10

Rosters are your test group.

19:13

We have a beautiful guide that we are also linking to you here, and we'll show you where it is later that also goes through this step by step.

19:23

If you are a teacher who doesn't have a lot of experience with the testing portal, we guide you through step by step.

19:40

We just wanted to put that in there that rosters need to be created and there's directions for that too.

19:50

Let's pretend that your students have taken the 128 question civics assessment.

20:00

They can see their scores right away.

20:03

This is an advantage of having it in the portal.

20:05

They can see their assessment scores right away.

20:08

Once they finish and click submit, boom, their score comes up.

20:11

Now in the state law, a student has to achieve a 70%, so that's considered passing.

20:19

That means they need to get 90 questions correct.

20:22

If they get 89 questions correct, they do not pass the assessment.

20:29

That is just the way the law is written, and we could definitely take some time to look at that.

20:34

I did provide a link for you so you can read the raw text of the law for those of you who are civics teachers.

20:39

That might be very interesting, and you definitely should do so, so they can see their test score right away and that's really helpful.

20:47

They can take the test again and again and again until they pass.

20:51

That's also part of the law.

20:52

If they don't pass it the first time they take it, the system will allow them to take it again right away.

20:59

It's not like the driving test when you have to wait, I don't know, 10 days or longer to take the driving test again.

21:06

You can take it right away.

21:07

Not necessarily best practice because it is 128 questions and that's long for some students to manage.

21:14

Be sensitive on that. Of course you're going to be thinking about that kind of thing, but the system lets them do it.

21:21

We are currently in the process of developing a reporting system whereby a teacher can see the entire roster of students and their scores on the assessment.

21:33

Right now we're working on that.

21:37

Again, the civics assessment is new.

21:39

You'll be able to see student grades. Kristen or Michelle if you want to hop in on this?

21:51

When a student is completing the test, they come to the end and when they click submit, their score will come up immediately and it's a percentage to two decimal points.

22:07

Anything lower than a 70% means they did not pass.

22:21

In the meantime, until we get our new reporting system up for the civics assessment, you can contact our help desk to request a list of students and their grades for the civics assessment and we'll get that right out to you.

22:38

You'll have a list of students in their grade as well.

22:41

You just need to submit a help desk ticket.

22:44

Once we have the reporting system in the i4see system, that will allow you to, or whoever has permission, to check out the student results there as well.

22:56

Thank you so much.

22:57

And just to add, what Michelle said about i4see, this will also allow if students should move during high school, let's say they took the this assessment their freshman year and they moved to a new high school, it will carry with them in the i4see system.

23:13

It should be ready relatively soon.

23:17

It will be released, hopefully, by the end of December.

23:22

When you come back in January, it should be good to go.

23:34

This is an important slide because this talks about the windows of operation for the civics assessment.

23:43

This year was an election year.

23:46

We have actually two windows of operation here and the first one you can see on the page, October 1 - December 20, which is coming right up.

23:56

The second window is January 27- January 31, 2025.

24:01

There is going to be a temporary freeze hold, temporarily unavailable while the New Hampshire SAS system updates itself with the most current information, election results, things like that.

24:20

When a student takes this assessment or takes this test, it is accurate to that time.

24:26

If they take it on December 20, the kid who takes it on December 20, it's going to look a little bit different than the kid who takes it on January 28.

24:35

There'll be a few questions different only because we've had an election and roles have changed.

24:40

We have to on the back end update that, so that's what we'll be doing.

24:46

Also wanted to point out on this slide that we do have two technical assistance advisories.

24:55

Our assessment team did not write those.

24:59

We do have our legal team write those.

25:02

One is relative to civics instruction.

25:05

Even though we're not talking about instruction other than to thank you for being instructors, those of you who are and those of you who have been and will be, we're not talking about instruction here.

25:15

We were talking about assessment.

25:16

This technical assistance advisory does make mention of the two required assessments that we talked about today.

25:22

Mostly we focused on the civics assessment, but also there's that competency based locally developed civics assessment as well.

25:28

Two assessments also.

25:31

The second technical assistance advisory that we are linking to is clarification about this UUSCIS civics assessment, which is also called the naturalization assessment.

25:46

Some people call it the citizenship test, but that's sort of colloquial.

25:50

Both technical assistance advisories for you here.

25:56

Ashley, do you mind if I just expand on something that we didn't include in this slide? But it's really important because it's a system limitation.

26:04

When the test is taken, it is meant to be administered in one sitting.

26:11

That said, it will be available in the system for seven days.

26:17

If you give it to a class of students one day and, you maybe had a couple of students who were unable to finish, it will still remain available for them, up through seven days.

26:29

It is like a 24 hour window.

26:32

If you know they finished at 1:50pm and they try to get back in seven days later at 2:00pm, it will have expired at that point.

26:40

I do want to mention that because that doesn't apply to the end of the window coming up in December.

26:46

If they start on December 19, it's still going to be taken down on December 20.

26:51

I've heard from a couple of schools that are planning to administer during the last week, just know it expires at the end of the week.

26:59

Most schools are off on school vacation after that anyway.

27:03

But it will be down.

27:05

And the reason for the longer window in January where it won't be available is the answers to some of the questions change at different times, like the US legislative session starts earlier in January.

27:16

And then of course inauguration, the governor of New Hampshire and the president of the United States; those answers change January 20.

27:23

We allow this window because of that flux.

27:28

As Ashley pointed out, when a student takes it, we'll make sure that the answers are accurate.

27:37

That way your students don't have to wonder is it then or now, what do they mean by this multiple choice question. It's important to alleviate some of that stress so they know that.

27:54

We do have some other resources to share with you.

28:11

Our last slide does include some hyperlinks to some other relevant pieces of information, the New Hampshire education laws.

28:20

This links right specifically to that assessment, the civics assessment law.

28:30

So that's very interesting.

28:31

And then of course, you can navigate from there to the technical assistance advisories.

28:35

This brings you to the whole page of technical assistance advisories, which is kind of interesting, from time to time, if you want to check those out.

28:42

This third hyperlink, the USCIS civics questions.

28:46

This is really important because this is the correct link to the one that is 128 questions as opposed to anything else.

28:54

The 128 question test is the one that New Hampshire requires your students to take, not anything shorter than that.

29:04

If you're floating around or you just do an Internet search for it, I think I mentioned this in the beginning, but I'm not sure if everyone was there.

29:10

If you just do an Internet search for it, you will get the new version of the USCIS civics assessment, and that has fewer questions than what New Hampshire requires.

29:19

We have the 2020 version, which has more.

29:28

I think we've talked about everything.

29:32

We want to hear from you if you have some thoughts or questions.

29:35

And we did design this based on some of the questions that we saw coming into our help desk ticket system.

29:41

But we also would love to hear any feedback if you have some other thoughts relative to this that you want to know some information on.