PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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TO   LEA Superintendents
            Charter School Directors

FROM   Eric Hall, Ed. D.
            Deputy Superintendent of Innovation

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            Director of Accountability Services

2018–19 MINIMAL DELAY IN SCORES FOR ASSESSMENTS WITH CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE ITEMS

Some tests in the North Carolina Testing Program include constructed response (CR) items. These items require students to produce a written response, rather than select an answer from a list. Student responses for CR items are distributed to human scorers. As a result, the CR responses are more time-consuming to score than traditional multiple-choice questions, producing a minimal delay in test scores. Due to the scoring of CR items, test scores that will be delayed include the following:

End-of-Course:
  • English II

North Carolina Final Exam:
  • English III

Local Education Agencies (LEAs)/charter schools are encouraged to schedule administrations of these assessments at the beginning of the testing window. This will allow maximum time to submit, score, and return test scores. Additionally, the NCTest online delivery mode decreases the time required to submit, score, and return scores. Therefore, Accountability Services strongly recommends LEAs/charter schools administer the English III North Carolina Final Exam (NCFE) online; LEAs/charter schools are required to administer the English II end-of-course (EOC) assessment online. Completed test records for English II online assessments will be submitted electronically to the vendor each night at 7:00 p.m. Completed test records for English III will be submitted immediately. Vendors will begin scoring the morning after the test record is received and will return the scored online test records electronically to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) within approximately three (3) business days of starting the scoring process. Test coordinators should allow up to 5 business days to receive scored online test records.

For LEAs/charter schools administering paper-and-pencil tests with CR items, the completed answer sheets must be shipped by LEA/charter school test coordinators to the vendor each test day. The vendors will score all items (i.e., multiple-choice and CR). The scoring process will begin the morning after the test record is received by the vendor. Scored paper-and-pencil test records will be returned electronically to the NCDPI within seven (7) business days of starting the scoring process. Test coordinators should allow approximately seven (7) business days to receive scored paper-and-pencil records.

The attached table, *English II EOC and North Carolina Final Exam Constructed Response Scoring/Return Dates for 2018–19*, summarizes the scoring windows and score return times for the 2018–19 assessment year. The scoring period must include time to score the CR items and to return a single score for each student's multiple-choice and CR items.

State Board policies TEST-016 and BEPL-003 require public schools to use results from all course specific operational assessments as at least twenty percent (20%) of the student's final grade for each respective course (with the exception of students following the Occupational Course of Study pathway and end-of-year assessments in grades 3–8). Because test scores may not be returned by the last day of the semester, students administered these assessments during fall 2018 and spring 2019 semesters should be assigned "incompletes" until scores are returned from the vendor. The scores must then be used to calculate the final grade for the course and to determine if students are appropriately enrolled in spring 2019 or upcoming fall 2019 courses. An exception to this policy will be made for high school seniors graduating at the end of the current semester. LEAs/charter schools may choose not to use the scores from the English II EOC/English III NCFE assessments that contain CR items as a minimum of 20% to calculate the final grades for seniors. This will allow schools to make graduation decisions in a timely manner.

The NCDPI recognizes the delayed scores may also impact student placement decisions. Course placement decisions should be made in the same way decisions are made for other courses not requiring an EOC assessment or NCFE (e.g., performance on classroom assessments, homework grades). Once these test scores are incorporated as at least 20% of the student's final grade for the course, the LEA/charter school must determine if the student is inappropriately enrolled in a spring/fall course. The deadline to drop students who are inappropriately enrolled is within the first 10 days of enrollment in a 4x4/semester course or the first 20 days of enrollment in a traditional yearlong course.

Please share this information with your principals and school test coordinators. If you have questions or need further clarification regarding information contained within this memo, please contact your Regional Accountability Coordinator (RAC).

EH:TLH:whw

c: Mark Johnson, State Superintendent
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Attachment

English II EOC and English III NCFE Constructed Response Scoring/Return Dates for 2018–19

Test Cycle Window	NCTest Opens	Scoring Begins[1]	Return Time for Scores[2]	Online Testing Window Closes (NCTest Closes)[3]	Paper/Pencil Shipping Deadline[4]
Fall 2018	November 15, 2018	December 21, 2018 (online)[5] (paper/pencil)[6]		January 31, 2019	January 29, 2019
CDM Spring	February 15, 2019	February 16, 2019 (online scoring only)	NCTest Online: apx 5 business days / Paper/Pencil: apx 7 business days	February 28, 2019	Paper administrations not permitted
Spring 2019	March 18, 2019	March 19, 2019 (online and paper/pencil scoring)		Multiple Choice Only–July 5 With CR–June 28[7]	June 26, 2019[8]

[1]Tests are scored in order of receipt. Test records are scored independent of each other and will not be organized by LEA, school, or classroom especially in the case of NCTest online records.

[2]The score return timeline begins with the first business day following the receipt of the test records to be scored.

[3]Online test administrations and coding must be completed before 7:00 p.m. Online test records received after this date will not be scored until the next online test record scoring window.

[4]All paper/pencil materials must be shipped to the vendor by the deadline for each test cycle. Materials shipped after the deadline will not be scored until the next paper/pencil scoring window.

[5]Scores for online tests submitted on or before December 21, 2018 will not be posted until January 7, 2019 due to holiday closures.

[6]Paper/Pencil tests will be scored beginning in early January.

[7]Any spring 2019 online test records received by the vendor after June 28, 2019 will be scored starting on July 5, 2019. This data will not be included in 2018–19 accountability calculations.

[8]Any spring 2019 paper/pencil test records shipped after June 26, 2019 will be scored starting July 5, 2019. This data will not be included in 2018–19 accountability calculations.