October 9, 2019

TO   LEA Superintendents
           Charter School Directors

FROM   David Stegall, Ed.D.
           Deputy Superintendent of Innovation

           Tammy L. Howard, Ph.D.
           Director of Accountability Services

DELAYED SCORING FOR THE 2019–20 SCHOOL YEAR

The purpose of this memo is to alert schools of expected score delays for the 2019–20 school year.

Due to the implementation of new reading and science tests, some score results from the 2019–20 administrations will not be available until completion of the standard setting process in summer 2020. Standard setting cannot be conducted until all tests are administered, requiring the process to occur in July 2020. The following test scores will be delayed due to standard setting:
- NCEXTEND1 Reading (grades 3–8)
- NCEXTEND1 Science (grades 5 and 8)
- NCEXTEND1 English II and Biology (grade 10)
- Grades 3–8 Reading End-of-Grade (EOG) tests
- English II End-of-Course (EOC) test

English II End-of-Course Test
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). State Board policy TEST-003 provides public schools an exception for "all students enrolled in a course during the initial implementation year of the new assessment for that course where scores are not immediately available due to standard setting." Thus, schools do not have to follow the requirement to use the results from the English II test for the 2019–20 school year as a minimum of twenty percent (20%) of the student's final grade. As stated in the SBE policy for this exception, public schools can choose to adopt policies regarding the use of EOC assessment results in assigning final grades.

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) will not provide a state-level raw score conversion table; however, the English II raw scores will be provided to facilitate Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and charter schools that decide to have a local policy that requires the EOC score to be included in the final grade for the course.

The English II EOC test is only available for online administration. Completed test records for English II will be submitted electronically to the vendor each night at 7:00 p.m. The vendor will begin scoring the morning after the test record is received and will return the raw score data electronically to the NCDPI within approximately three (3) business days of starting the scoring process. Test coordinators should allow up to five (5) business days to receive the state-level raw score. Only the raw score will be available due to standard setting.

English III NC Final Exams

The English III NC Final Exam includes 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. 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.

The English III NC Final Exam is only available for online administration. Completed test records will be submitted electronically to the vendor each night at 7:00 p.m. The vendor will begin scoring the morning after the test record is received and will return the scored online test records electronically to the NCDPI within approximately three (3) business days of starting the scoring process. Test coordinators should allow up to five (5) business days to receive scored online test records.

For LEAs/charter schools administering paper/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/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/pencil records.

The scoring period for these tests must include time to score the CR items and to return a single score for each student's multiple-choice and CR items.

The attached table, *English II EOC and English III NCFE Constructed Response Return Dates for 2019–20*, summarizes the scoring windows and score return times for the 2019–20 assessment year.

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 test or NCFE (e.g., performance on classroom assessments, homework grades). The deadline to drop students who are inappropriately enrolled in a course with an associated EOC is within the first ten (10) days of enrollment in a 4x4/semester course or the first twenty (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).

DS:TLH:whw

c: Mark Johnson, State Superintendent
    Chloe Gossage, Chief Strategy Officer
    Dave Machado, Office of Charter Schools
    Christie Lynch Ebert, Director, K–12 Standards, Curriculum and Instruction
    Trey Michael, Director, Career and Technical Education
    Curtis Sonneman, Section Chief, Analysis and Reporting
    Maxey Moore, Section Chief, Test Development
    Shannon Jordan, Section Chief, Testing Policy and Operations
    Regional Accountability Coordinators
    LEA/Charter School Test Coordinators

Attachment

English II EOC and English III NCFE Constructed Response Return Dates for 2019–20

CDM (English II) will only be scored in the fall for 2019–20. English II (fall/spring) will not be scored due to standard setting, but state-level raw score data will be provided. English III will be scored and results provided as usual.

Test Cycle Window	Online Testing Window Opens	Scoring Begins[1]	Return Time for Scores[2]	Online Testing Window Closes (NCTest Closes)[3]	Paper/Pencil Shipping Deadline[4]
CDM Fall	September 17, 2019	September 18, 2019	**NCTest Online**: apx 5 business days *English II scored (fall only)*	September 30, 2019	Paper/Pencil administrations not permitted
Fall 2019	November 18, 2019	Week of December 16, 2019	**NCTest Online**: apx 5 business days **Paper/Pencil**: apx 7 business days *English II raw score only*	January 31, 2020	January 29, 2020
CDM Spring	February 17, 2020	February 18, 2020 (online scoring only)	**NCTest Online**: apx 5 business days *English II no score available*	February 28, 2020	Paper/Pencil administrations not permitted
Spring 2020	April 15, 2020	April 16, 2020 (online and paper/pencil scoring)	**NCTest Online**: apx 5 business days **Paper/Pencil**: apx 7 business days *English II raw score only*	Multiple-Choice Only–July 2 With CR–June 26[5]	June 24, 2020[6]

[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]Any spring 2020 online test records received by the vendor after June 26, 2020 will be scored starting on July 6, 2020. This data will not be included in 2019–20 accountability calculations.

[6]Any spring 2020 paper/pencil test records shipped after June 26, 2020 will be scored starting July 6, 2020. This data will not be included in 2019–20 accountability calculations.

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