



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Catherine Truitt, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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TO LEA Superintendents
Charter School Directors

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KEY DATES FOR 2020-21 REPORTING AND UPDATES FOR SPRING 2021 AND FALL 2021

For the 2020–21 school year, the U.S. Department of Education granted a waiver from the requirements for the school accountability model, School Performance Grades, new school identifications, and some reporting requirements. As required by the waiver, all schools will maintain current school identifications (based on data from the 2018–19 school year). There is not a waiver from administering the required end-of-grade (EOG) tests in reading and mathematics in grades 3–8, and science in grades 5 and 8. Additionally, students enrolled in English II, NC Math 1, NC Math 3, and Biology courses are expected to take the associated end-of-course (EOC) test. The associated alternate assessments are also required to be administered to eligible students.

Likewise, if enacted, the North Carolina General Assembly’s Senate Bill 654 would grant a state-level waiver from the school accountability model, School Performance Grades, school identifications and some reporting requirements. As with the federal waiver, all schools and districts would maintain current low-performing identifications (based on data from the 2018–19 school year). Updates on the status of Senate Bill 654 will be provided via the Testing News Network as available.

This memo provides (1) key dates for data reporting for the 2020–21 school year, and (2) testing updates for spring 2021 and fall 2021.

Key Dates for 2021 Reports

The 2020–21 School Year Reporting Timeline

On September 1, 2021, EOG and EOC test results, the Cohort Graduation Rate, and other data for the 2020–21 school year will be presented to the State Board of Education (SBE). Once finalized, a list of all reported data, as well as data available to public school units for local use will be provided to accountability directors and testing coordinators. The timeline for spring 2021, including required due dates for districts and charter schools to review and finalize all data, are provided in the following chart:

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| Month | Dates of Activities |
|-----------|--|
| July | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. July 6—Finalized data files are due to the Division of Accountability Services. 2. July 7—Preliminary Read to Achieve files will be delivered to public school units. 3. July 12 through 16—Standard setting conducted to define academic achievement standards for reading EOG tests and reading and science NCEXTEND1 alternate assessments. 4. July 19—The Division of Accountability Services submits EOG and EOC data to EVAAS. This includes results of the reading EOGs. EVAAS does not require academic achievement levels to calculate growth. After the July 19 data submission to EVAAS, data adjustments and corrections of student demographics or test data are not applied to growth calculations. 5. July 21 through August 4—The Division of Accountability Services conducts Cohort Graduation Rate (CGR) Exit Code Documentation Monitoring. 6. July 30—Finalized ACT and ACCESS testing data are validated by public school units. |
| August | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. August 4—Reading EOG tests and reading and science NCEXTEND1 alternate assessment academic achievement standards recommended to SBE for approval. Once approved, Individual Student Reports will be available. 2. August 11—Final Graduation Data Verification (GDV) is due to the Division of Accountability Services. Students who graduate on or before August 6, 2021, can be included in the Final GDV. 3. August 20—Read to Achieve Data Collection for end-of-year reporting is due from public school units to the Division of Accountability Services. 4. August 23—The Division of Accountability Services provides all complete preliminary audit files and internal reports to public school units. The Division of Accountability Services provides preliminary audit files embargoed until the September SBE meeting. Audit files include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Participation Rates—Participation rates on tests, including disaggregated data of all students (tested and not tested). b. Reporting Data—Required reporting including additional subgroups such as Academically or Intellectually Gifted (not part of accountability reporting) and other measures useful for public school units to support student learning. c. Additional Data—Data that is not made publicly available but provided to public school units to support students learning. |
| September | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. September 1—The SBE approves the release of the four-year and five-year Cohort Graduation Rates. 2. September 1—The SBE approves the release of test results and other data reported. 3. September 1—SBE approves Read to Achieve reporting. 4. September 2 through 10—Data Adjustment and Correction Window: Public school units submit final data adjustments and corrections (These corrections are not applied to EVAAS growth). |
| October | <p>October 6—SBE approves final changes to the 2020–21 school year data.</p> |

Participation

For the 2020–21 school year, the U.S. Department of Education (USED) waived the 95% participation requirement for the reading and mathematics assessments. Additionally, the 95% participation consequences for science, ACT and ACT WorkKeys are not in effect. As required by the USED waiver, the percentage of students assessed and not assessed, disaggregated by subgroup, will be reported to ensure transparency to the parents, educators, and the public. As specified in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) state plan, EOC participation rates are based on the cohort of students in grade 10 for reading (English II) and grade 11 for mathematics (NC Math 1 and NC Math 3) and science (Biology). EOC test data reports will also include the number and percentage of students who tested compared to those who were expected to test in the 2020–21 school year.

Updates Spring 2021

Standard Setting and Delayed Scores

In 2017, the SBE adopted new content standards for English Language Arts and new Extended Content Standards for English Language Arts. New content standards require the development of new tests aligned to those content standards. Thus, in the 2017–18 school year, the development of new EOG and NCEXTEND1 test items were developed, and subsequently the new reading EOG tests and NCEXTEND1 alternate assessments were scheduled to be implemented at the end of the 2019–20 school year. However, the 2019–20 federal and state testing waivers delayed implementation until the 2020–21 school year.

The format for the NCEXTEND1 alternate assessments changed when developed after new Extended Content Standards were adopted for reading and mathematics. To keep the format across all subjects consistent, the NCEXTEND1 science forms were also updated and will be administered for the first time in the 2020–21 school year.

As with any new test, once all administrations are completed, an externally facilitated standard setting process is conducted. In this process, panels of North Carolina teachers draft a recommendation for presentation to the SBE for the approval of academic achievement standards (Levels 5, 4, 3, and Not Proficient for reading and Levels 4, 3, and Not Proficient for NCEXTEND1 reading and science alternate assessments). The standard setting workshop will be held July 12–16, 2021. On August 4, 2021, the SBE will review the recommended academic achievement standards for the reading EOG and NCEXTEND1 reading and science alternate assessments. After SBE adoption, the academic achievement standards will be applied to the 2020–21 reading EOG tests, NCEXTEND1 reading and science alternate assessments, and the Individual Student Reports will be available for dissemination. No data on the reading EOG tests or NCEXTEND1 reading and science alternate assessments will be available prior to the SBE’s adoption of the academic achievement levels.

Exit Code Documentation Monitoring

As with the 2019–20 CGR monitoring, due to COVID-19, randomly selected schools will participate in a virtual desk monitoring process to affirm the removal of students from the CGR denominator. This will require collection of all appropriate documents from public school units electronically. Public school units will be notified of schools selected for monitoring in July, and the monitoring process will occur between July 21 and August 4, 2021.

Please contact your Regional Accountability Coordinator (RAC) if your school is selected for monitoring and staff are unable to gain access to documentation due to COVID-19 restrictions and limitations to discuss alternative options for collecting and submitting the documents.

Graduation Date Change

For the 2020–21 school year, students who graduate on or before August 6, 2021, are included as a 2020–21 school year graduate. This is a change from the previously established July 15, 2021, deadline.

Students who graduate on or before August 6, 2021, should be added to the 2020–21 Final GDV (GDV2) report. The due date of the 2020–21 Final GDV submission has been extended to August 11, 2021, to provide time for these graduates to be included. All public school units must submit the Final GDV by August 11, 2021, even if there are no changes.

Updates Fall 2021

Online Testing Updates

Continued efforts to administer online assessments with numerous challenges in the 2020–21 school year are much appreciated. As a result of these challenges, the expansion of the annual testing program's online testing requirement was paused during the 2020–21 school year to allow districts additional flexibilities. For the 2021–22 school year, most assessments are offered in the online format except for the NCEXTEND1 Grade 11, and specific tests will be required online.

Required online administrations for the 2021–22 school year and beyond include:

- ACCESS for ELLs
- All EOCs (English II, NC Math 1, NC Math 3, and Biology)
- EOG Reading (Grades 6–8)
- EOG Science (Grades 5 and 8)
- EOG Mathematics (Grades 4–8)
- NCEXTEND1 Reading and Mathematics (Grades 3–8)
- NCEXTEND1 Science (Grades 5 and 8)
- NCEXTEND1 Biology, English II, and NC Math 1 (Grade 10)
- NC Check-Ins Science (Grades 5, 8 and Biology)
- NC Personalized Assessment Tool Interims for Reading and Mathematics (Grades 4 and 7) for schools participating in the innovative assessment pilot.

For the **2022–23** school year, all assessments will be available for online administrations. Tests added for required online administrations next year include:

- EOG Reading (Grades 3–5)
- EOG Mathematics (Grade 3)
- NC Personalized Assessment Tool Interims and Multi-Staged Adaptive Summative for Reading and Mathematics (Grades 4, 5, 7 and 8) for schools participating in the innovative assessment pilot.

As the number of required online administrations continues to increase during the next two school years, public school units are encouraged to make intentional decisions to increase local technical infrastructure and device capacity to facilitate the ease of online test administrations. As always, paper versions of all online assessments are available for documented technology hardship situations and for students who require paper mode for accessibility.

ACT

Fall ACT testing will be offered during the 2021–22 school year. The fall administration will be paper only. Students who were in grade 11 in the 2020–21 school year and were unable to participate in the ACT administration during the spring 2021 administrations are the only students eligible for this testing window. Likewise, NCEXTEND1 at Grade 11 and the College and Career Readiness Alternate Achievement at Grade 11 are also available for Fall 2021 administration for 11th graders who were unable to participate in spring 2021.

NC Check-Ins

For the 2021–22 school year, all NC Check-Ins will be available during the entire test administration window (Grades 3–8 October 1–May 31; NC Math1 and biology September 1– May 31) and may be administered in any order. It is a local decision to follow the number sequence of 1, 2, 3 or to administer out of order due to sequencing of the content standards. This decision does not have to be consistent at the district level, but rather it can be localized at the school level. NC Check-Ins for biology will be available beginning with the 2021–22 school year. Also, as with the 2020–21 school year, remote administrations of the NC Check-Ins will be permissible during the 2021–22 school year.

10/20 Day Student Removal from a Course with an EOC

Effective with the 2021–22 school year, students who are removed from a course with a corresponding EOC requirement after the 10th day of the semester, or the 20th day of a year-long course, without the Division of Accountability Services approval will count against participation rates as not tested. Requests for approval are submitted through the 10/20 Day Withdrawal Request process in NC Education. Adding students to participation rates as a violation of the 10/20 Day rule was intended to be implemented in the 2019–20 school year but was delayed until the 2021–22 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As always, thank you for all you do for North Carolina students. Please contact your Regional Accountability Coordinator if additional information or clarification is needed.

CE:TLH:cjs:whw

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