



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Catherine Truitt, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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TO LEA Superintendents
Charter School Directors

FROM Michael Maher, Deputy State Superintendent *MM*
Division of Standards, Accountability, and Research

Tammy L. Howard, Senior Director *TLH*
Office of Accountability and Testing

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT STATE PLAN AMENDMENT

On April 10, 2023, the U.S. Department of Education (USED) notified Superintendent Catherine Truitt that North Carolina's request for an amendment to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) state plan was approved. The amendment is for the 2022–23 school year only and addresses the impact of the pandemic on North Carolina's cohort-based participation model for the NC Math 1, NC Math 3, biology, and English II end-of-course tests. With this amendment, for the 2022–23 school year participation rates for NC Math 1, NC Math 3, biology, and English II will be based on current students in membership in the associated courses, not the cohort-based model.

For the cohort-based model, all students must have specified test scores by the end of grade 10 or grade 11: (1) by the end of grade 11 a score in either NC Math 1 or NC Math 3 and in biology and (2) by the end of grade 10 a score in English II. With some students not taking the required end-of-course tests in spring 2020, pursuant with the pandemic-related waiver from testing, there are students in grade 11 in the 2022–23 school year who do not have the required test scores, most often NC Math 1. Without this amendment, these students would count negatively for schools' participation rates for the 2022–23 school year.

As with the addendum for the 2021–22 school year, this amendment allows North Carolina to continue using end-of-course assessment data from currently enrolled high school students in NC Math 1, NC Math 3, biology, and English II rather than banked scores for end-of-course participation. The amendment has been granted for the 2022–23 school year only; an amendment for the 2023–24 school year is not feasible. If any students do not have the required test scores in the 2023–24 school year, the participation rate will be affected.

Thank you for your patience throughout the amendment process and please contact your regional accountability office if you have any questions.

MM:TLH

c: Catherine Truitt, State Superintendent
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