

## Assessment Administration 2016-17

### Overview and Guidance

#### Operational Testing Window

- Please see the full administration calendar ([here](#)). The following is a snapshot of important dates:
  - For high school students on block schedule, the fall testing window is **Nov. 28–Dec. 16**.
  - For students on traditional schedule or block schedule, the spring testing window is **April 17–May 5**.
- All operational tests will be completed in a single administration window, as opposed to a two-part testing window at different times during the school year.

#### Operational Test Scheduling

- **Subpart 1 of the English language arts and U.S. history assessments, which include writing responses, must be administered in the first week of the administration window.** Districts may select any day or days within the week to complete subpart 1. *However, all materials must be shipped back to the vendor no later than **Friday** of the first week of the administration window.*
  - For high school fall block End of Course (EOC) administration, the first week of the test administration window is Nov. 28–Dec. 2, 2016.
  - For all grades (3–8 and high school, traditional and block schedule), the first week of the spring assessment window is April 17–21, 2017.
- **For the remaining assessments**, districts must complete test administration over no more than 10 school days, and those days do not have to be consecutive.
  - Districts do *not* have to use all 10 days and may complete administration over fewer days.
  - Districts can choose to administer each subpart on different days to allow schools to maintain the regular bell schedule for most tests.
- Testing schedules should be established *by the district* at the school and/or district level. It is the district's option to allow schools to set their own testing schedules, independent of a district schedule.
- Please see details on subparts for each subject and grade level ([here](#)).
  - **English Language Arts (grades 3–11):** Subparts 2, 3, and 4 may be completed over as many as three days.
    - Please reference the first bullet point in the “Operational Test Scheduling” section for information about subpart 1 of the ELA assessment.
  - **Mathematics (Grades 3–11):** Subparts 1, 2, and 3 may be completed over as many as three days.
    - Subpart 1 is the calculator-prohibited section.
    - Schedules should provide a break between Subpart 1 and Subpart 2 to allow for the distribution of calculators, if completing those subparts back-to-back on the same day.
  - **Science (Grades 3–8):** Subparts 1 and 2 may be completed over as many as two days.
  - **U.S. History/Geography:** Subparts 2 and 3 may be completed over as many as two days.
    - Please reference the first bullet point in the “Operational Test Scheduling” section for information about subpart 1 of the U.S. history assessment.
  - **Chemistry and Biology:** Contains only one subpart that must be completed in one (1) day.
- Subjects with multiple subparts (i.e., all subjects except science) must be completed in numerical order.
- Subparts can be combined to administer them on the same day, if the district and/or school so chooses.
- Students in a test session do not have to be on the same subpart unless it is a read-aloud session. However, districts should be mindful that subparts may differ in the time allowed for student completion.

## Field Testing

- Based on feedback from educators, we will administer stand-alone field tests, including one writing prompt in English language arts and one writing prompt in U.S. history. These writing field tests will take place at a *separate time outside the operational testing window*.
  - One-half to one-third of students will participate in these field tests, and the field test group will rotate each year. Districts will be required to participate in these field tests when selected in the rotation.
- Additionally, all students in grade 3–8 will take a social studies field test, which will occur *during the operational window*. It is required that this 3–8 social studies field test is completed in one day.
- Please see complete details regarding field tests planned for 2016-17 ([here](#)).

## Test Format

- The department will be phasing in online assessment over the next three years. We will release additional details regarding the timeline for completing technology readiness proof points in early August.
- Based on proof points of the vendor's technology readiness to support your district with online administration, districts may have the option to allow high schools to complete EOC tests for English language arts, math, and U.S. history/geography online.
  - If a district has the option to consider online administration for EOCs in high schools based on the early proof points, the district can choose to administer EOCs online in *all* high schools **OR** choose *some* high schools to complete EOC tests online and *some* high schools complete EOC tests on paper.
  - Districts, however, cannot administer online to *only* specific subject areas. Thus, if a high school tests online, all EOC exams in that school must be taken online. In other words, districts cannot administer math assessments online and ELA and U.S. history assessments on paper.
  - *Please note, the EOC chemistry and biology tests are available in paper-and-pencil format only.*
- For 2016-17, test formats will be as follows:
  - **Paper/pencil only:** *Please note, there will be separate test books and response documents for each content area for paper/pencil tests.*
    - All testing in grades 3–8 (ELA, math, science, and social studies)
    - ELA, math, and U.S. history EOC exams administered in during fall block window
    - Biology and chemistry EOCs administered during fall block or the spring window
    - Grade 2 and Grade 2-Alternative for ELA and math
    - TCAP Alternative for grades 3–11 in social studies and science
  - **Online optional:**
    - High school ELA, math, and U.S. history/geography EOCs administered during spring window
  - **Online only:**
    - TCAP Alternative for grades 3–11 using MSAA for ELA and math
- For test security, there will be multiple test forms, multiple test versions, and items mixed within the versions.

## Practice Tools

- The department will provide practice tools to support educators and students.
  - **Paper Practice Tests:** PDF versions of practice tests for all grades will be available by mid-August and posted on EdTools. These will be largely the same as last year's practice tests, with a few updates to reflect design and structure changes detailed in the updated blueprints.
  - **Online Practice Tests:** The online versions of the practice test will be available in early November.
    - As previously stated, no online administration for operational tests will occur until the spring (for districts who choose online administration for high school students).
  - **Online Item Sampler:** The online item sampler tool will be available for next school year, and we are finalizing the timeline for release with the vendor. The department will provide additional details in early September regarding the timeline for the release of the online item sampler tool later in the school year.