



Board of Education
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Interim Superintendent:
Dr. Jim Causby

September 14, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The READY Accountability Model (adopted in 2012-2013) acknowledges that we owe every child an education that properly prepares him or her for their next big steps after graduation – college, career, and adulthood. The North Carolina Department of Public Education Accountability Services Division is committed to evaluating how students are learning and where we must make improvement based on performance indicators, progress indicators, and growth indicators.

North Carolina Testing Program

The following tests will be given during the 2017-2018 school year. It is required that all students participate in the state testing program.

Elementary and Middle School Grades 3-8

Students at *grade 3* take the Beginning-of-Grade 3 English Language Arts/Reading Test between the 11th and the 15th day of the school year.

Students at *grades 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7* take End-of-Grade tests in English Language Arts/Reading and Mathematics during the last 10 days of the school year.

Students at *grades 5 and 8* take End-of-Grade tests in English Language Arts/Reading, Mathematics, and Science during the last 10 days of the school year.

Students who are enrolled in courses where North Carolina Final Exams are required shall take the appropriate NC Final Exam.

All students identified as limited English proficient must be annually assessed to determine progress and level of English language proficiency.

High School Grades 9-12

Students who are enrolled for credit in courses where End-of-Course (EOC) tests and North Carolina Final Exams are required shall take the appropriate End-of-Course test and NC Final Exam.

End-of-Course tests and NC Final Exams are given during the last 5 days of the instructional period for 4X4/semester courses or the last 10 days of the instructional period for traditional/yearlong courses.

Students at *grade 10* take the PreACT (curriculum-based educational and career planning assessment that measures achievement in English, Math, Reading, and Science) in October.

Students in *grade 11* take the ACT (college admission and placement test evaluating learning in English, Mathematics, Reading, Science, and Writing) in February.

Students at *grade 12* who are identified as Career and Technical Education concentrators are required to take the WorkKeys assessments.

For 2017-18, EOC tests are available for the following subjects: NC Math I, Biology, and English II.

Per State Board of Education policy, schools are to use results from all End-of-Course, Career and Technical Education State Assessments, NC Final Exams, and teacher-made Final Exams as at least twenty (20%) of the student's final grade for each respective course.

All students identified as limited English proficient must be annually assessed to determine progress and level of English language proficiency.

State-Identified English Language Proficiency

Language minority students are identified through the use of the home language survey process.

The state-identified English language proficiency test is administered to eligible students in *kindergarten through grade twelve*.

The WIDA ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT) is administered to all initially enrolled language minority students in Kindergarten and the WIDA Screener is administered to all initially enrolled language minority students in grades 1-13 within 30 calendar days at the beginning of the school year or 14 calendar days of enrollment if the student enrolls after the beginning of the school year.

All students identified as limited English proficient must be administered the Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners (ACCESS for ELLs) during the annual testing window.

The Alternate ACCESS for ELLs is an assessment of English language proficiency for students in *grades 1-12* who are identified as language minority students and have significant cognitive disabilities.

NCEXTEND1

NCEXTEND1 is an alternate assessment designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities who have Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

The assessment process requires students to complete performance-based, multiple-choice items in the following subject areas; English Language Arts/Reading at *grades 3-8, 10, and 11*, Mathematics at *grades 3-8, 10, and 11*, and Science at *grades 5, 8, 10, and 11*, during the designated testing windows.

College and Career Readiness Alternate Assessment

College and Career Readiness Alternate Assessment is an alternate assessment for eligible students with disabilities who have Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

For eligible students at *Grade 10* this is an alternate assessment for participation in the PreACT administered in October.

For eligible students at *Grade 11* this is an alternate assessment for participation in the ACT administered in February.

For additional information about the North Carolina Testing Program, visit the Accountability Services Division website [Link to NCDPI Accountability Page](#).

Additional Local Testing

mClass – K-3

All Kindergarten through 3rd grade students' basic reading skills are assessed using mClass: Reading 3D three times throughout the school year. This web-based assessment provides immediate valuable feedback about the instructional needs of students in the area of foundational reading skills. Parents receive "Home Connect Letters" three times a year with information about each child's reading skills and suggestions for reading activities to do at home. The state of North Carolina requires this assessment for all students in Kindergarten through 3rd grade.

Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) - Grade 3 and Grade 6

The CogAT is a brief assessment to measure three separate cognitive domains for a more complete perspective on a student's reasoning abilities. The three domains include non-verbal, verbal, and quantitative tests to measure a student's school ability. It is used locally to provide information for the Exceptional Children's Program, which includes the Academically or Intellectually Gifted Program. Students in grade 3 and 6 are tested each fall semester.

Case 21 Benchmark Assessments- Grades 3, 4, 5, and 11

Students in selected schools are assessed in Reading, Math, and Science using Case 21 two times throughout the school year. Third grade students at Brush Creek, Hot Springs, and Mars Hill are assessed in Reading and Math twice per year. Fourth grade students at Brush Creek, Hot Springs, and Mars Hill are assessed in Reading twice per year. Fourth grade students at Hot Springs and Mars Hill are assessed in Math twice per year. Fifth grade students at Hot Springs and Mars Hill are assessed in Reading and Math twice per year. Fifth grade students at Brush Creek, Hot Springs, and Mars Hill are assessed once at the end of the year in Science. Students in grades 4 and 5 at Brush Creek are assessed in Math at the end of the year. Students taking English II at Madison High School are assessed at the end of each semester.

NC Check Ins- Grades 4, 5, and 6

Students in selected schools are assessed in Reading and Math using the NC Check-ins. Students at Brush Creek are assessed twice per year using the NC Check ins. Fourth grade students are assessed in Math and fifth grade students are assessed in Reading and Math. Students in grades 6 and 7 at Madison Middle are assessed twice per year using NC Check Ins. Sixth grade students are assessed in math and reading, and seventh grade students are assessed in Reading.

School Net- Grades 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12

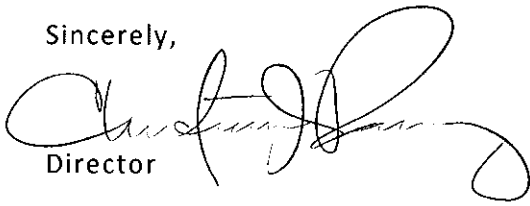
Students at Madison Middle are assessed twice per year in math in grade 7 and grade 8 in math, ELA, and Science using school net. Students at Madison High are assessed twice per year in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 in English (Except English II), History, Science, Math, and also in CTE using School net.

Aimsweb- Grades K, 1, and 2

Students at Brush Creek Elementary, Hot Springs Elementary, and Mars Hill Elementary are assessed twice per year in math in grades K, 1, and 2 in math using Aimsweb.

Please call your student's school if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Andrew H.', written over the word 'Director'.

Director

Testing and Accountability