Statewide Test Assignment Guidelines

*Local Education Agencies are to use the following guidelines for federally required ESSA summative assessments as designated on the annual **state assessment calendar**.*

Required Test Assignments Exclusive to Students with the Most Significant Cognitive Disabilities:

- Students whose Individualized Education Program teams have determined the alternate assessment is the appropriate placement will take the DLM test in lieu of MSSA (grades 3–8), ASR (grades 5, 8, and 11), and SAT School Day (grade 11). Therefore, no MSSA, ASR, or SAT School Day test records should appear for these students, as DLM is the alternate assessment for this population for all tested grades and content areas.
- English learners whose IEP teams have determined the alternate assessment of English language proficiency is appropriate will take the WIDA Alternate ACCESS assessment starting with the grade in which identified (WIDA Alt-ACCESS available for grades K–12) and until they achieve an overall composite score of P1 or higher.

Required Test Assignments for General Education Students With or Without IEPs, Identified ELs, and Excluding Students with the Most Significant Cognitive Disabilities

English Learners

- Only students identified as English learners by the WIDA screening assessments will take the WIDA ACCESS for English language proficiency assessment until they achieve an overall composite score of 4.7 or higher.
    - ELs enrolled in a U.S. school for less than a full academic year may be exempted from taking the ELA assessment during their first year in a U.S. school. They will take math, science, and ELP assessments.
    - ELs enrolled in a U.S. school for fewer than three consecutive academic years may take the science, math, and language arts assessments in the home language of Spanish, where those assessments are available.
    - ELs enrolled in a U.S. school for three but fewer than five consecutive years may apply for a waiver to assess in the home language of Spanish.
    - ELs enrolled in a U.S. school for five or more consecutive academic years must take all assessments in English.
- English learners whose IEP teams have determined the alternate assessment of English language proficiency is appropriate will take the WIDA Alternate ACCESS assessment starting with the grade in which identified (WIDA Alternate ACCESS available for grades K–12) and until they achieve an overall composite score of 3.0 or higher.

Students in Grades 3–8

- Students in grades 3–8 must take their grade-level New Mexico Measures of Student Success and Achievement (NM-MSSA) test in ELA and math. This includes students

enrolled in advanced math classes (e.g., 8th grade Algebra).
- Students in grades 5 and 8 will take the NM-ASR for their grade level.

High School Students*

- Students enrolled in grade 11 participate in the SAT School Day.
    - Qualifying ELs may participate in Prueba de Aptitud Académica (PAA), a test for Spanish-speaking students, in lieu of SAT Reading and will receive a college reportable score, for select colleges and universities in the US.
        - Participating in the full SAT School Day (both sections) or the EL-supported Math-only SAT (advance request required) will result in college - reportable scores
- Students enrolled in grade 11 participate in the New Mexico Assessment of Science Readiness.
- Students enrolled in grade 11 whose IEP dictates an alternate assessment will participate in the DLM in ELA, math, and science.

***Per state rule and federal testing requirements, all 2027 cohort graduates are required to participate in all Title I, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) assessment programs at grade 11. Additionally, grade 9-12 English learners who have not met the state's exit criteria are still required to participate in ACCESS for ELLs (see English learner section of this guidance).**

Off-Grade Level Testing Waivers for High School SAT School Day, NM-ASR, and DLM

All assessments are assigned by grade level enrolled. To ensure correct ESSA participation calculations, LEAs are not permitted to administer a test above or below their grade level without a PED-approved waiver. Off-grade level waiver requests should be submitted via Test Coordinator Portal (TCP) ***here****.*