May 13, 2019

TO  
LEA Superintendents  
Charter School Directors

FROM  
LaTeesa Allen, Interim Deputy Superintendent  
Office of Deputy Superintendent of Innovation

Tammy L. Howard, Director  
Division of Accountability Services

ONLINE TESTING UPDATES 2019–2020

We appreciate your continued efforts to administer online assessments, as evidenced by the continually increasing number of online administrations. During the 2017–18 school year, over 2.1 million assessments were successfully completed online, compared to the 1.7 million assessments successfully completed online in the 2016–17 school year. In the fall of 2018, 90.5% of all assessments were taken online. To support districts and charter schools with the delivery of online assessments, this memo provides the required online assessments for each school year through the 2021–22 school year.

Summative Online Assessments for 2019–20
For 2019–20 all assessments are offered in the online format with the exception of:

- NCEXTEND1 Grade 11

The following assessments are required online administrations for the 2019–20 school year and beyond:

- ACCESS for ELLs  
- All EOCs (English II, NC Math 1, NC Math 3, and Biology)  
- EOG Science (Grades 5 and 8)  
- EOG Mathematics (Grades 5 and 8)  
- All NCFEs  
- NCEXTEND1 ELA/Reading, Mathematics (Grades 3–8)  
- NCEXTEND 1 Science (Grades 5 and 8)  
- NCEXTEND1 Biology, English II, and NC Math 1  
- NC Check-Ins Science (Grades 5 and 8)  
- NC Check-Ins NC Math 1

* LEAs/charter schools should prioritize the administration of NC Math 1 and NC Math 3 online. All Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM) assessments are required online administrations.
For the 2020–21 school year, the following tests will be added to the list of required online tests:

- EOG ELA/Reading (Grades 6–8)
- EOG Mathematics (Grades 6–7)
- EOG Mathematics (Grade 4)

For the 2021–22 school year, all assessments will be required online administrations. Tests added for required online administrations include:

- EOG ELA/Reading (Grades 3–5)
- EOG Mathematics (Grade 3)

As the number of required online administrations increases during the next three school-years, local education agencies (LEAs) and charter schools should make intentional decisions to increase local technical infrastructure and device capacity to facilitate the ease of online test administrations. As always, paper/pencil versions of all online assessments are available for technology hardship situations and for students who need to test in the paper mode for accessibility.

If LEAs/charter schools do not have the technology capability to support administering the required online assessments to students, a technology hardship must be submitted to the Director of Accountability Services. An approved technology hardship request must be on file with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) before paper/pencil tests can be ordered through the NC Education materials ordering page. These orders will be reviewed and verified by the Regional Accountability Coordinator (RAC) prior to processing/shipping.

If the required accommodations documented on a student’s current Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan dictate a specific mode of assessment (i.e., paper/pencil or online), then that mode must be provided to the student on test day. The mode must support the accommodations. The decision regarding testing accommodations must be based on the individual needs of the student. A technology hardship request does not need to be submitted to the Director of Accountability Services for approval for students with disabilities who have documented accommodations that dictate a paper/pencil mode is necessary for accessibility. Schools must, however, ensure every student participating in an online assessment completes the Online Assessment Tutorial for the associated assessment at least one time per year at the school before test day. For best results, students should complete the Online Assessment Tutorial for the specific assessment they will be taking using the devices they will use during the actual online assessment.

To ensure students receive a valid and reliable online assessment administration, schools must meet specific technical requirements. The technical specifications for NCTest, which is used to deliver the online assessment, are found at http://center.ncsu.edu/nct/. Schools must review these technical requirements on days before an online assessment and make any necessary adjustments before administering an online assessment.
Thank you for continuing to move toward online assessments and for all you do for our schools and the children of North Carolina. If you have questions or need further clarification regarding information contained within this memo, please contact your RAC.

LA/TLH/whw

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