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MEMORANDUM

TO: All District Superintendents
State Public Charter School Authority
All Test Directors

FROM: Jhone M. Ebert, Superintendent of Public Instruction

DATE: August 6, 2020

SUBJECT: School Year 2020-21 State and Federal Assessments

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jhone M. Ebert".

The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) is committed to supporting schools by offering flexibility in the administration of assessments as we continue to respond to and recover from COVID-19. As we prepare to reopen school buildings, the top priority is the safety and social-emotional wellbeing of students and school staff. To that end, assessments should be administered when it is safe and appropriate to do so.

Please be aware that potential changes in administration procedures may be necessary to ensure the safety of students and staff and to ensure the validity and reliability of the Nevada assessments. As of the writing of this memo, we have not received any indication from the U.S. Department of Education of whether accountability and assessment waivers will be offered for the 2020-21 school year. NDE will continue to provide updated information regarding State and federal assessments as warranted by any change in conditions. We appreciate your patience and flexibility during these trying times.

Early Childhood Screening

Generally, the Brigance Early Childhood Screen III diagnostic has one testing window for children entering Kindergarten in the fall and two testing windows for Pre-K, one during the fall and one in the spring. NDE will be expanding the fall administration window from 30 to 45 days. For the 2020-21 school year:

- In the fall, students must be assessed no earlier than 15 calendar days prior to the start of school or within 45 instructional days of the start of the school year.
- In the spring, students must be assessed within the last 30 instructional days or upon student exit.
- If students enroll midyear, they should be assessed no earlier than 15 calendar days prior

to the start of school or within 45 instructional days of their enrollment. The Brigance cannot be administered online. Therefore, the Brigance Early Childhood Screen III is waived for students who are enrolled in distance learning full-time at the start of the 2020-21 school year.

English Learner Identification and Assessments

Guidance was previously issued regarding the identification of English Learners per the *COVID-19 and English Learners Provisional Identification Amendment* issued June 29, 2020. The amendment addressed the Kindergarten W-APT and **WIDA Screener** for grades 1-12 (which must be administered in person and one-on-one for Kindergarten students) as follows:

“As LEAs typically have few contracted staff during the month of July, NDE hereby provides LEAs and SPCSA charter schools the flexibility to use the results of the Home Language Survey (HLS) without conducting a student and parent/guardian interview to temporarily designate a student as a provisional English learner. This flexibility will be effective for the period starting July 1, 2020 through the date of school reopening for the 2020–2021 school year.

When regular schooling resumes, LEAs will be required to administer the approved WIDA English language proficiency screeners to students who were identified as provisional English learners to determine if the student qualifies as an English learner. NDE recognizes that some LEAs may face challenges in administering numerous WIDA screeners with limited staff and facility capacity in a short period of time. NDE encourages LEAs and SPCSA charter schools to begin the formal assessment of provisional English learners during Phase 2, summer school/program reopening or in the interim summer period of school closure in accordance with their approved school re-opening plan and CDC guidelines.”

The English Language Proficiency Assessment or **WIDA** will be administered to students in Kindergarten through 12 grades during the established testing windows:

- Kindergarten: January 4 – February 26
- 1st – 12th grades: January 19 – February 26

Other Assessments

The **Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Growth Reading** assessment will be administered in the following assessment windows during the Fall, Winter, and Spring:

- Fall: August 17 – October 29
- Winter: November 16 – February 19
- Spring: March 8 – May 28

The administration windows for MAP are generous enough to support districts and schools in meeting the requirements of Nevada Revised Statutes 388.157 and the assessment can be administered online and remotely in a distance education environment. As a reference, this [link](#) corresponds to NWEA’s recommendations for district and school administration of the MAP Growth Reading assessment in a remote setting.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) exams will have three testing windows:

- Fall Testing: September 21 – October 16

- Winter Testing: October 26 – November 20
 - Retake: December 7 – December 18
- Spring Testing: February 16 – March 26
 - Retake: April 12 – April 30

Federally mandated assessments, including the **Smarter Balanced** Summative assessment of mathematics and English Language Arts in grades 3-8, the **Nevada Science Assessments** in grades 5, 8, and high school, and the **Nevada Alternate Assessment (NAA)** in grades 3-8 and 11 will be administered during the following testing windows:

- Smarter Balanced: February 18 – May 19
- Nevada Science: February 18 – May 19
- Nevada Alternate Assessment (NAA): February 18 – May 19

The **ACT** will be administered to 11th grade students as in previous years:

- ACT: Paper/Pencil: February 23
 - Make-up: March 9
- Accommodated Versions: February 23-26, March 1-5
 - Accommodated Make-up: March 9-12, March 15-19
- ACT Online: February 23-25, March 2-4
 - Online Make-up: March 9-11, March 16-18

End of Course assessments will *not* be administered in the 2020-21 school year, in accordance with budget reductions approved during the Nevada Legislature’s 31st (2020) Special Session.

In closing, the entire Nevada Department of Education cannot thank each of you enough for the support you provide, each and every day, to Nevada’s students, educators, staff, and families. We appreciate your unwavering dedication.

Attachment(s): Accountability and Assessment Calendar for SY2020-21