



NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT TRANSITION SCHOOL YEAR 2014-15

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

With the passage of Assembly Bill 288 in 2013, graduation requirements have been changed; students in Nevada still must earn at least 22.5 credits AND in addition must participate in four new End-of-Course (EoC) Exams and a College and Career Readiness (CCR) assessment. While the end result will be beneficial, the transition from Nevada's High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE), which ends for the graduating class of 2016, is a complex one.

HSPE PHASE-OUT

Students in the Class of 2016 (11th graders this year) will be the last class of high school students required to pass each of the HSPEs. These students will take the writing section of the HSPE for the first time in fall 2014. They still have the opportunity to retake any other sections they have not passed.

WHEN WILL THE HSPE NO LONGER BE ADMINISTERED TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2016?

The last HSPE tests will be administered in summer 2016 to provide this cohort with every opportunity to pass the HSPE. The HSPE will continue to be administered beyond summer 2016 for certain student populations (i.e., special education and adult education students).

WHY ARE WE ADMINISTERING THE SCIENCE HSPE TO 10TH GRADERS THIS YEAR?

Passing the state's HSPE in Science is NOT required for high school graduation for the Class of 2017 and beyond. However, taking the test in the 10th grade is required for federal school accountability. The Science HSPE will continue to be administered until an End-of-Course exam in Science is given in 2017.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS (CCR) ASSESSMENT

WHAT WILL THE CCR ASSESSMENT LOOK LIKE FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2014-15?

On July 10, 2014, the State Board of Education authorized the Department to enter into negotiations with ACT® as Nevada's CCR assessment to be administered beginning in school year 2014-15 to all 11th graders in public schools. The Department has negotiated a one-year contract with ACT®.

WHAT WILL THE CCR ASSESSMENT LOOK LIKE BEYOND SCHOOL YEAR 2014-15?

The State Board only authorized a one-year contract with ACT®. While it is not possible to predict at this time which CCR assessment will be approved for use in school year 2015-16 and beyond, a new contract with ACT is possible if the Board is satisfied and if funding is appropriated.

WILL THE STATEWIDE ADMINISTRATION OF ACT® INCLUDE WRITING?

Yes. Nevada has contracted for administration of the ACT® Plus Writing.

WILL THERE BE A PASSING SCORE ESTABLISHED FOR THE CCR ASSESSMENT FOR GRADUATION PURPOSES?

No. Although participation is mandatory, a particular score on the CCR assessment is not required for graduation.

WHEN WILL THE ACT® BE ADMINISTERED TO STUDENTS?

Statewide administration of the ACT® will occur on April 28, 2015 with a make-up date on May 12, 2015.

WHAT IF A STUDENT MISSES BOTH CCR TEST DATES IN 11TH GRADE?

The Department is currently working with ACT® to develop a procedure for 11th grade students who miss both designated state testing dates in spring 2015. Most likely, students who did not take the CCR assessment in 11th grade will be allowed to take the test during the state testing time in their 12th grade year.

WILL STUDENTS WHO TOOK THE ACT®PLUS WRITING PRIOR TO GRADE 11 BE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STATEWIDE ADMINISTRATION OF ACT®?

No. However, if a student has taken only the ACT® without the writing element they must participate in the statewide administration.

WILL STUDENTS BE ABLE TO HAVE SCORES FROM THE STATEWIDE ADMINISTRATION OF ACT® PLUS WRITING SENT TO COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES OF THEIR CHOICE?

Yes. The ACT® student answer document allows for the student to add up to 4 organization codes indicating where they would like their scores sent.

HOW WILL STUDENTS RECEIVE THEIR INDIVIDUAL STUDENT REPORTS?

Individual student reports will be sent to the district's Test Directors for distribution. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to create an ACT account to receive scores electronically.

WILL ACT® PROVIDE DISTRICT-LEVEL SUMMARY REPORTS FOR THE ACT® STATEWIDE ADMINISTRATION?

Yes. Districts will receive ACT Profile Reports for each high school, and for the district, as well as a Student Data File that will include all college-reportable scores for all participating students.

WILL THE STATEWIDE ADMINISTRATION OF ACT® BE ONLINE OR PAPER/PENCIL?

In 2015, the statewide administration of ACT® will be paper/pencil only. However, there will be a limited option for online testing on a school-by-school basis.

ARE ACCOMMODATIONS AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE IEPS AND/OR 504 PLANS?

Yes. ACT® provides a variety of approved accommodations for students with IEPs and 504 plans. Applications for ACT® approved accommodations must be submitted by January 23, 2015.

END OF COURSE (EOC) EXAMINATIONS

The following are key points about the EoC exam requirements for students presently enrolled in grades 7 through 10 during school year 2014-215.

WHAT COURSES ARE TESTED BY THE EOC EXAMS THIS YEAR?

The EoC exams will consist of Math I & Math II and ELA I & II.

- Math I with a focus on Algebra I
- Math II with a focus on Geometry
- ELA I with a focus on reading comprehension
- ELA II with a focus on writing

ARE THE EOCS COMPUTER-BASED OR PAPER-BASED?

The EoC exams will be paper-based.

WHEN DO STUDENTS TAKE THE EOC EXAMS?

Each EoC exam will be administered between May 4 – 29, 2015.

ARE STUDENTS REQUIRED TO PASS EOC EXAMS PRIOR TO GRADUATION?

While districts must ensure that students graduating in the classes of 2017 and 2018 (grades 9 and 10 in school year 2014-15) take EoC exams upon completion of a tested course, no “passing” score is established for these students. Beginning with the class of 2019 (students in grade 8 this year), students must achieve a passing score that will be determined following the Spring 2015 administration of the tests.

WILL TEACHERS BE ALLOWED TO SEE THE EOCS BEFORE ADMINISTERING THEM?

No, neither teachers nor school staff is permitted to review the EoCs prior to their administration. These tests are secure and should be treated in the same manner as other high-stakes tests. However, the Council to Establish Academic Standards has prioritized those Academic Content Standards that will be assessed; this information is available to school districts for purposes of ensuring that instruction aligns to the exams.

WHAT ACCOMMODATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS?

Accommodations for ELL students are now classified as designated supports. For a full description of these supports, see the “Universal Tools and Designated Supports” form on the Department’s website: http://www.doe.nv.gov/Administration_Forms/.

WHAT ACCOMMODATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES FOR THE EOCS?

Accommodations are available to those students with documentation of the need through a formal plan (i.e., IEP or 504). Those students also may use designated supports and universal tools. For a complete list of state-approved accommodations, see the IEP and 504 Accommodations form on the NDE website: http://www.doe.nv.gov/Administration_Forms/.

SOME STUDENTS IN 9TH OR 10TH GRADE THIS YEAR TOOK ALGEBRA 1 AND/OR GEOMETRY IN MIDDLE SCHOOL. ARE THESE STUDENTS STILL EXPECTED TO TAKE THE MATH 1 AND MATH 2 EOC EXAM?

Yes. Students in the Class of 2017 and 2018 who took any of the EoC courses prior to high school must participate in four EoCs and pass a class that is aligned to the exam.

IS PASSAGE OF THE EXAM REQUIRED FOR OR TIED TO COURSE CREDIT?

No. To graduate with a regular diploma a student must earn 22.5 credits and participate in four End of Course exams.

HOW MANY EXAMS WILL FRESHMEN AND SOPHOMORES TAKE THIS YEAR?

The number of exams a student will take this year depends on their eligibility based on courses they are enrolled in or have taken. Students who are enrolled in or have taken courses that align to the standards being tested in the EoCs will be eligible to take the exam for those courses this year.