



FAQs on Assessments and Accountability

In response to Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) submitted a request to the U.S. Department of Education (US ED) to waive certain requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA, section 1111) related to assessment, accountability, and reporting requirements. On March 27, 2020, US ED gave notification to DEED that the waiver was approved.

1. How will the state handle testing for the 2019-2020 school year?

As a result of the approval of the Assessment and Accountability Waiver, the spring 2020 administrations of the following assessments have been cancelled:

- a. Performance Evaluation for Alaska Schools (PEAKS) content area assessments in Mathematics, English Language Arts, and the Alaska Science Assessment
- b. Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) alternate assessment
- c. WIDA ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS

2. Now that assessments have been cancelled, will WIDA ACCESS for ELLs tests be scored? Will score reports for individual students be available?

Yes; completed ACCESS assessments will be scored. There are no plans to cancel scoring and individual reporting on ACCESS scores for English Learners (ELs).

3. When will we get ACCESS for ELLs scores and reports?

Unfortunately, due to the state of Minnesota's shelter in place order, DRC warehouses are no longer able to process materials as they arrive. As a result, reporting to districts may be delayed. DEED does not yet know what the new timeline might be. DEED will continue to keep you updated as the situation develops.

4. What are the consequences if I can't get my ACCESS for ELLs secure testing materials shipped by April 7th?

DEED understands that some materials may remain inaccessible due to building closures or other reasons. The health and safety of district employees must be the top priority. There are no consequences for late returns of ACCESS for ELLs materials; however, prolonged delays (those beyond the DRC delays addressed above) may result in later scoring and reporting of ACCESS for ELLs results.

5. How will schools be designated for support in the 2020-2021 school year?

Per US ED guidance, schools that were identified for Comprehensive Support and Intervention (CSI) or Targeted Support and Intervention (TSI) in the 2019-2020 school year will retain their identification status for the 2020-2021 school year.

6. If my school was designated as CSI or TSI in the 2019-2020 school year, will my school continue to receive supports in the 2020-2021 school year?

Yes. As per US ED guidance, schools that were identified for support in the 2019-2020 school year will continue to receive supports consistent with their identification status. For example, a school identified as Comprehensive Support and Improvement for graduation rate in the 2019-2020 school year will continue to receive supports that are targeted at improving graduation rates in the 2020-2021 school year.

7. How will my school's Report Card be affected by the assessments and accountability waiver?

Many federal requirements related to the Report Card that uses data from the 2019-2020 school year have been waived. This includes:

- a. Percentage of students assessed and not assessed
- b. Assessment results (including English language proficiency assessment results)
- c. Number and percentage of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities taking an alternate assessment
- d. Accountability system description
- e. Other academic indicator results (academic growth)
- f. School quality or student success indicator results (chronic absenteeism, Grade 3 ELA)
- g. Progress toward meeting long-term goals and measurements of interim progress