

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
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DR. VERONICA C. GARCÍA
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

BILL RICHARDSON
Governor

February 9, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, and State Educational Institution Administrators

FROM: Veronica C. García, Ed.D, Secretary of Education (signature on file)

RE: **EXEMPTION FROM CERTAIN STUDENT ASSESSMENTS:
OPENS FEBRUARY 15, 2010**

Many of you expressed concerns about the amount of student testing required by the New Mexico Statewide Assessment Program, and about costs associated with those assessments. In our challenging economy, I appreciate the importance of focusing precious resources on instruction. Therefore, I am informing you that the following assessments are not required by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and New Mexico statute. These assessments, which do provide instructional value and can be used for student growth modeling, may be exempted from administration in FY11:

- Standards Based Assessments in science in grades 3, 5, 6, and 8
- Short-cycle assessments in grades 3 through 8 (associated with School Improvement planning)
- Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) in Kindergarten and K-3 Plus programs
- College Readiness Assessment
- Workforce Readiness Assessment

Some districts might have sufficient resources to continue administration of these assessments, and might wish to do so. Therefore, as a condition of receiving an exemption from the above listed assessments, the PED requires districts to submit a [Notice of Exemption from Certain Student Assessments](#). This Notice certifies the district, charter school, or State educational institution's plan regarding the administration of each of the assessments.

Please submit your notice via a convenient on-line form available at the following link: <http://www.ped.state.nm.us/AssessmentAccountability/suspend.html>. The form will be available starting February 15, 2010.

Please contact Dr. Tom Dauphine, Interim Supervisor, Assessment and Accountability, with your questions regarding the exemption from administration of assessments (505.827.6528 or tom.dauphinee@state.nm.us).

VCG/TD/df

cc: Senator Stephen H. Fischmann
Representative Nathan P. Cote
Representative Rick Miera
Senator Cynthia Nava
Senator John Arthur Smith
Representative Henry Kiki Saavedra
David Abby, Director, Legislative Finance Committee
Frances Maestas, Director, Legislative Education Study Committee
Dannette Burch, Deputy Secretary, Budget and Policy, Department of Finance & Administration
Michael Marcelli, Analyst, Department of Finance and Administration
Dr. Catherine Cross Maple, Deputy Secretary, Learning and Accountability
Dr. Tom Dauphinee, Interim Supervisor, Assessment and Accountability
Robert Romero, Acting Director of State Assessments, Assessment and Evaluation Bureau
Dr. Sheila Hyde, Assistant Secretary for Quality Assurance and Systems Integration
Dr. Scott Hughes, Director, Office of Education Accountability
Dr. Peter Winograd, Office of the Governor
Select PED Staff