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SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

BILL RICHARDSON
Governor

July 12, 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: Public School Superintendents, Directors of Instruction, District Test Coordinators, and Test Coordinators of Charter, State-supported, and BIA Schools

FROM: Dr. Don E. Watson, Assistant Secretary, Assessment and Accountability

RE: Calendar of State-mandated Assessments for 2005-2006

In an effort to assist with district- and school-level planning, the following information is provided regarding the state-mandated assessment program for 2005-2006.

New Mexico Standards-Based Assessment (NMSBA)

- Test window: February 27-March 24, 2006
- Criterion-referenced test (CRTs) administered at grades 3-9 in both English or Spanish
- Content areas assessed are Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and Science
- Contractor is Harcourt Assessment, Inc.
- Assessment Frameworks and sample test items will be available on PED website by Fall 2005
- Cost per student: \$29.70 for both English and Spanish versions
- Participation rates and student achievement results in Reading and Mathematics are used in determining adequate yearly progress (AYP) for districts and schools.

New Mexico High School Standards Assessment (NMHSSA)

- Test window: February 27-March 17, 2006
- Criterion-referenced test (CRT) administered at grade 11 in English only
- Content areas assessed are Reading and Mathematics
- Contractor is Pearson Educational Measurement
- Assessment Frameworks and sample items will be available on PED website by Fall 2005
- Cost per student: \$40.58
- Participation rates and student achievement results in Reading and Mathematics are used in determining adequate yearly progress (AYP) for districts and schools.
- Student score results in reading and mathematics, and associated proficiency levels, are recorded on student transcripts. However, failure to achieve proficiency does not have consequences for students.

New Mexico High School Competency Examination (NMHSCE)

- Fall administration test window: October 24 – November 4, 2005 (grades 12 and "13" only)
- Regular administration test window: January 17 – February 3, 2006 (grades 10-12 and "13")
- Fall administration is for the English version only; Regular administration is in English and Spanish
- Criterion-referenced test (CRT)
- Content areas assessed are Reading, Language Arts, Written Composition, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies
- Contractor is CTB/McGraw-Hill
- Cost per student: maximum of \$24.50 for the English version and \$26.50 for the Spanish version
- Public high school students are required to pass all sub-tests in order to receive a high school diploma

New Mexico Alternate Assessment (Original)

- Alternate to the following general assessments:
 - New Mexico Standards-based Assessment (grades 3-9)
 - New Mexico High School Competency Exam (grade 10-12 and "13")
 - New Mexico High School Standards Assessment (grade 11)
- Available only to students with significant cognitive disabilities who meet established criteria for participation
- Fall administration test window (tentative): October 24 – November 22, 2005
 - Grades 12 and "13" only for those students taking the test as the alternate to the NMHSCE and who still need to take the assessment to meet the graduation requirements set forth in their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)
- Spring administration test window (tentative): January 17 – March 24, 2006
 - Grades 3-11 - for those students taking the test as the alternate to the NMSBA, NMHSCE, and the NMHSSA
 - Students in Grades 12 and "13" who still need to take the assessment to meet the graduation requirements set forth in their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)
- Contractor is Measured Progress
- Cost per student: approximately \$31.00
- Participation rates and student achievement results in Reading and Mathematics are used in determining adequate yearly progress (AYP) for schools and districts. At the district and state level, alternate assessment results may constitute no more than 1% of the proficient and advanced scores.
- For questions regarding alternate assessment, please call the Special Education Office at (505) 827-1457 and ask to speak with Dan Farley

New Mexico Alternate Assessment for Writing

- Must be administered to grades 3-9 in addition to the Original New Mexico Alternate Assessment
- Test window (tentative): January 17 – March 24, 2006
- Grades 3-9 only for those students taking the test as an alternate to the Writing subtest of the NMSBA
- Contractor is Measured Progress
- Cost per student: approximately \$28.00
- For questions regarding alternate assessment, please call the Special Education Office at (505) 827-1457 and ask to speak with Dan Farley

New Mexico English Language Proficiency Assessment (NMELPA)

- Test window: Spring 2006 (specific dates to be announced)
- Beginning in 2006-2007, we will develop options that permit students to be tested as needed throughout the school year
- Standards-based language proficiency test administered to all students in grades K-12 who have a primary home language other than English (PHLOTE)
- Contractor to be determined
- The costs for this assessment were appropriated by the legislature. In the 2005 session, the legislature appropriated an additional seven million dollars to the general fund to cover assessment costs, including the cost of the NMELPA.
- Cost per student: Estimated at approximately \$15.00 – 20.00 per student.

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

- Only nationally representative, continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do in school
- Criterion-referenced tests (CRTs) administered to sample of students in Grades 4, 8, and 12
- National assessments only in 2006 (no state assessments); therefore, only a small number of New Mexico schools will be asked to participate
- Content areas assessed in 2006: U.S. History (Grades 4, 8, and 12); Civics (Grades 4, 8, and 12); and Economics (Grade 12 only)
- Test window (anticipated): January 23 – March 3, 2006
- Only schools that have been sampled will be notified that they have been selected for participation. If the school is not notified, it means that the school has not been selected to be part of the assessment.

Please share this important information with district and school staff involved with the planning and implementation of state-mandated assessments. Contact the Student Assessment Bureau, (505) 827-6524, with questions or concerns regarding the information contained in this memorandum.

DW/eg

cc: Dr. Veronica C. García, Secretary of Education
Dr. Catherine Cross Maple, Deputy Secretary, Learning and Accountability
Dr. William O. Blair, Assistant Manager, Assessment and Accountability
PED Executive Team
PED Program Managers
Student Assessment Bureau