



Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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DATE: November 1, 2010
TO: Superintendents
FROM: Office of College and Career Readiness
Jane VanDeZande, Director of Assessment
Dr. Sharon Hoge, Coordinator of Curriculum and Assessment
RE: 2010-11 Assessments Update

This letter contains important information regarding changes this year with administration of End-of-Course, Grade-Level, and Personal Finance assessments. Please read carefully and forward to the appropriate parties – district and school test coordinators, teachers, and IT personnel. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us by e-mail at map@dese.mo.gov or call (573) 751-3545.

Personal Finance: Online assessment discontinued

Due to budgetary constraints, DESE will no longer administer the Personal Finance online assessment. Missouri students must earn a one-half credit in the area of Personal Finance as part of their graduation requirements; this is not changing. However, Personal Finance competencies will now be assessed locally.

EOC: Transition to online (only) assessments

Beginning Spring 2011, the optional End-of-Course Phase II assessments for English I, Algebra II, Geometry, and U.S. History will be offered **only** online. Since Government is a required course, it will remain available for both paper/pencil and online administration for the 2011 spring administration.

Beginning Summer 2011, **all** EOC assessments will be offered online only. If your district has not yet begun to test online, please become familiar with systems configuration requirements by reviewing <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/assess/eoc/documents/StandardBrowserTesting.pdf>

Grade-Level and EOC Assessments: Performance Events and Writing Prompts

As announced earlier this month, DESE also had to eliminate the administration and scoring of all Performance Events and Writing Prompts for Grade-Level and End-of-Course assessments. Grade-level constructed response items are not affected and will continue to be part of the assessment. This week, the department will make available on its website at www.dese.mo.gov a recorded webinar and frequently asked questions to provide more information about this change and supportive resources available to teachers.