

## Administrative Memo

**Date:** July 23, 2015  
**To:** School Administrators  
**From:** Sharon Helwig, Ph.D. – Assistant Commissioner  
**Subject:** CCR-15-015 – General Updates Regarding the 2015-2016 Missouri Assessment Program

As you may be aware, fiscal cuts and restrictive language added to the 2016 assessment appropriation (HB 2, Section 2.070) prohibit state administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) grade-level summative assessments and access to its digital library and formative tools. The Department is pleased to announce the revised plan for SY 2015-2016.

The grades 3-8 English language arts and mathematics spring 2016 summative assessments will consist of items licensed from DRC. The items are aligned to the Missouri Learning Standards and have the same look and format as the items used in the spring 2015 assessments. The following bullets provide high level information regarding the spring 2016 summative assessments.

- The testing window will be April 4, 2016 to May 27, 2016.
- The reporting and administration platforms will be the eDIRECT and INSIGHT platforms used in spring 2015.
- The online tools trainings (OTTs) will be available for each grade and content area as in spring 2015.
- The items will be reviewed and approved by Missouri educators in fall 2015.
- The cut point validation will occur in June/July of 2016.
- The student reports will be delivered by September 1, 2016.

In addition, the Department has licensed from DRC the interim assessment resource, the Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDT), as an option for school district use. The CDT bank of items is administered via computer-adaptive tests, and has a rich suite of reports that will be useful to school districts in monitoring student progress and learning. The following bullets provide basic information regarding the Classroom Diagnostic Tools.

- The CDT will be available November 2, 2015 and will remain available until May 29, 2016.
- The content of the CDT item banks is aligned to the current Missouri Learning Standards.
- The eDIRECT and INSIGHT platforms will be used for reporting and administration.
- The online tools trainings (OTTs) using CDT items will be available for each grade band and content area.
- The items will be machine scored.
- The Classroom Diagnostic Tools is **not** predictive to the state summative assessment.
- The Classroom Diagnostic Tools will be available for the following content areas:
  - Mathematics Lower Grades (3-5)
  - Mathematics (6-8)
  - Reading Lower Grades (3-5)
  - Reading/Literature (6- HS)
  - Writing Lower Grades (3-5)
  - Writing/English Comp (6- HS)

The ACT® will once again be offered for all 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. The regular paper/pencil test date is April 19, 2016 and the makeup paper/pencil test date is May 3, 2016. Districts will have the option to give the ACT online and more details will be provided in early fall 2015 regarding the platform requirements.

End-of-Course assessments will continue for 2015-2016 as in 2014-2015 with no changes in test design or administration platform.

The Department will offer two informational breakout sessions on Monday, July 27, at the Cooperative Conference for School Administrators on the spring 2016 state assessments. Additional details and timelines will be released to school districts early in the 2015-2016 school year when the Guide to the Missouri Assessment Program 2015-2016 is published.