

Date: November 10, 2017
To: School Administrators
From: Lisa Sireno, Standards and Assessment Administrator
Subject: CCR-17-010 – 2017-18 Grade-Level and End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments

English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics

This year (2017-18), new ELA and Mathematics Grade-Level and EOC assessments will be administered. These assessments are based on the Missouri Learning Standards adopted by the State Board of Education in 2016, with new items written and reviewed by Missouri teachers. After field testing in 2016-17, items were selected and combined to make up the new operational tests in ELA and mathematics. (Please recall that based on input from colleagues in the field, stand-alone field tests were not administered for the new assessments, rather items were embedded into 2016-17 assessments for field testing.)

1. **Standard-setting process.** As this is the first year of administration of the new assessments, the standard-setting process will take place during summer 2018. Once this process is complete, performance-level cut scores for Grade-Level assessments and EOC assessments will be proposed to the State Board of Education.
2. **Board approval of performance levels.** Following State Board of Education approval of performance levels, school districts and charter schools will receive assessment results from fall 2017 and spring 2018 assessments. No results – raw scores or scale scores – will be released prior to this process being completed.
3. **Course grade calculations in EOC content areas.** Given there will be no EOC results released prior to fall 2018, school districts and charter schools should determine alternate means to calculate final grades in courses with EOCs.
4. **No summer 2018 EOCs.** There will be no summer 2018 EOC assessment window. School districts and charter schools should plan for students who are taking summer courses in tested subject areas to test during a different EOC assessment window.

Science Field Tests

As stated in the May 23, 2017, administrative memo, DESE will administer stand-alone field tests in biology, physical science, and 5th and 8th grade science in 2017-18. These field tests will align to the new Missouri Learning Standards. No operational assessments in science will be administered.

All students who would have taken an operational EOC in science are expected to participate in the field tests. Test data will be captured to ensure compliance with the federal requirement for 95 percent participation in statewide assessments, but the data will not be included in the calculation of the 2018 APR. Districts will not receive raw scores, scale scores, or Individual Student Reports (ISRs) on these assessments. In addition, districts will not be charged for science field tests.

For additional information, please contact Assessment at 573-751-3545 or assessment@dese.mo.gov.