

Administrative Memo

Date: May 23, 2017

To: School Administrators

From: Blaine Henningsen, Assistant Commissioner, Office of College and Career Readiness
Chris Neale, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Quality Schools

Subject: QS-17-007 - Administration of Summer End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) continues to move forward with the development of new assessments based on standards approved by the State Board of Education during its April 19, 2016, meeting.

During the State Board's most recent meeting, the impact of the new science assessments (Grade Level and biology) on the Annual Performance Report (APR) was discussed. The following plan will allow districts to focus on the new science standards, eliminate double testing in this area, and conserve DESE's limited assessment budget. This memo provides you with information related to the implementation of the new science standards and the impact on the calculation of the 2018 APR.

1. **Summer 2017 Administration of Biology and Physical Science EOC**
DESE will offer the existing biology and physical science EOC assessments for administration during the 2017 summer assessment window. Please remember that the physical science EOC is not used for accountability. Because of the limited number of students who participate in this assessment, the assessment data from biology *will not* be included in the calculation of the 2018 APR.
2. **Field Test of Grade Level (5 and 8) Science, Biology, and Physical Science**
DESE will administer *only* field tests for grades five and eight science, biology, and physical science during the fall 2017 and spring 2018 assessment windows. These field tests will align to the standards adopted by the State Board in April 2016. Data from the assessment vendor will be used to ensure that the 95 percent participation rate required for federal accountability purposes is met. This assessment data *will not* be included in the calculation of the 2018 APR.
3. **Graduate LND/Participation Requirements**
DESE will use participation in the biology EOC field test to ensure students have met their high school assessment requirements. DESE will verify that a student has a score from a previous assessment, an eligible exception, or participated in the 2017-18 field test.

If you have questions about accountability, please contact Jocelyn Strand (Jocelyn.Strand@dese.mo.gov) 573-751-4104 or Janet Duncan (Janet.Duncan@dese.mo.gov) 573-751-1362. If you have questions about assessment administration, please contact the assessment section at assessment@dese.mo.gov or 573-751-3545.