

Administrative Memo

Date: October 2, 2012
To: School Administrators
From: Margie Vandeven, Assistant Commissioner
Subject: QS-12-004 – Algebra I

To assist Missouri in increasing access to Algebra I for all middle school students, the U.S. Department of Education approved our request to waive additional provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

Effective immediately, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are no longer required to administer both the grade-level-assessment (GLA) and end-of-course (EOC) assessment in the same accountability year to middle school students attaining competencies in the Algebra I course-level-expectations (CLEs). Instead, the LEA will need to determine *which* assessment, the GLA or EOC, is the most appropriate measure for each individual student. Please see the specific guidance below:

- LEAs must continue to test all students annually in grades 3-8 in mathematics and English language arts, in grades 5 and 8 in science, in grade 11 on the end-of-high school mathematics and English language arts assessments (beginning school year 2014-2015), and on the required EOCs in mathematics, English language arts, science and social studies prior to graduation; a required EOC may serve as a substitute for the mathematics GLA, but each grade 3-8 student must participate annually in an assessment. For example:
 - A grade 8 student may participate in the Algebra I EOC in place of the mathematics GLA and would in turn participate in the Algebra II EOC to meet LEA and building participation requirements at the high school.
 - A grade 7 student may participate in the Algebra I EOC in place of the grade 7 mathematics GLA, the Geometry EOC in place of the grade 8 mathematics GLA and would in turn participate in the Algebra II EOC to meet LEA and building participation requirements at the high school.
- A middle school student who participates in an EOC and does not score proficient or advanced fulfills the participation requirement for the grade level, and the score is applied for accountability purposes at the middle school and LEA levels. The student would be permitted to retake that EOC when he/she reaches high school

and participation would apply towards the LEA and building participation requirements at the high school.

- Scores will be used during the accountability year in which the tests are administered. The accountability year begins with the summer administration (summer, fall, spring).
- Scores will be reported by subject area at the LEA and building levels. For example, a 6-8 building Annual Performance Report (APR) for mathematics would include the percent proficient and the MPI generated by students tested in the building (MAP grades 6-8 and/or MAP-A grades 6-8 and/or Algebra I and/or Geometry).
- To ensure a consistent metric of annual improvement is applied to the MSIP 5 APR, the same methodology will be applied to 2010, 2011 and 2012 mathematics data.
- In a K-8 district, a middle school student's EOC score will be included in the district's Academic Achievement Standards and the High School Readiness Standard.

Student success in advanced content requires increased focus and alignment of the curriculum at earlier grade levels. The elimination of “double testing” our students will assist in this effort. An accelerated course pattern is optimal for many students, in that it keeps them engaged in rigorous content and allows room in high school schedules for advanced courses. It is imperative that all students be provided access to the opportunity to move into the advanced content once individual readiness has been established. Therefore, Missouri continues with its “right test – right time” stance on end-of-course assessments.

Please contact Jocelyn Strand jocelyn.strand@dese.mo.gov or Melissa Hensley melissa.hensley@dese.mo.gov of the Office of Quality Schools with any questions.

Thank you.