



Talking Points for 2017 EOCs

Main Message: The results of the 2017 EOCs in English II and Algebra I do not produce year-to-year comparable results. The department doesn't plan to release statewide results from these particular assessments. We will hold the testing vendor, Questar, accountable for not producing usable assessment results.

- DESE's TAC – Technical Advisory Committee – concluded that the results of the Algebra I and English II tests do not produce year-to-year comparable results.
- School districts and charter LEAs have already received Questar's individual student reports (ISRs). Consistent with previous guidance from DESE, educators should use raw scores from those assessments. Accordingly, student record labels may be used as appropriate.
- Districts may also use student End-of-Course (EOC) scores for determining A+ scholarship eligibility.
- For students who took the Algebra I and English II EOCs, the participation requirement has been met. Students do not need to retake these tests.
- We are extremely frustrated with our vendor's inability to deliver usable results. Our students and teachers work hard throughout the year, and they are counting on us to get this right.
- We are working with our attorney to pursue our legal options.

Timeline of Events

- When the department received 2017 statewide assessment results in late July, staff immediately alerted Questar, Missouri's EOC test vendor, about unexpected changes in the results compared to test administrations in previous years.
- DESE staff then convened the state's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – made up of nationally recognized experts in assessment – to review the results.
- At its August 18 meeting, the TAC concluded that there were year-to-year comparability issues for the EOCs for Algebra I and English II. The TAC did not express concern about any other EOCs.
- These tests have now been retired. Missouri educators have been developing mathematics and English language arts assessments—both Grade-Level Assessments and EOCs—that will be administered beginning this year.

APR Talking Points

- In developing the APR, DESE will take the following steps to identify the best solution for this challenging situation:

- District APRs will not include Algebra I and English II EOCs in the status and progress calculations.
- Status targets and progress calculations will be adjusted to accommodate the loss of the two EOCs.
- Priority is on district and charter LEA APRs. Decisions regarding building-level APRs will be made at a later date.

Timeline

The department’s next steps will include the following:

1. MSIP TAC will convene on September 12.
2. Comprehensive Guide revisions will be made during the week of September 18.
3. Public Hearing on MSIP Comprehensive Guide will be held on October 4.

Event	Date
Achievement data to school districts and charter schools during week of	9/5
Appeals and data corrections window closes for EOCs	9/22

Further timeline information will be published as soon as it is available.

What are the department’s next steps regarding assessments?

We will convene a work group to review and make recommendations regarding ways to improve test administration and delivery of results. Topics will include such things as

- a timeline for the release of scores to districts,
- the length of testing windows, and
- technology variations among districts and charter LEAs.