

Dear District Test Coordinator (DTC),

Please read carefully for the most recent updates about the End-of-Course (EOC) assessments and important information about fall testing.

This year (2017-18), new English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics EOC assessments will be administered. In preparation for assessment of new standards—the MLS Expectations adopted by the State board of Education in 2016, new items were written and reviewed by Missouri teachers. After field-testing in 2016-17, items from this group were selected and combined to make up the new operational tests in ELA and Mathematics.

Although new Science tests do not become operational until next year, there is a census field test in Biology and Physical Science this year. Government and American History will continue to assess the Course-Level Expectations as last year.

As communicated on August 24, 2017, in a message to testing coordinators, the vendor Questar is providing a new testing platform for EOC, called [Nextera](#).

### **Fall Test Windows**

The fall Social Studies EOC assessment window opened, October 5. All other fall EOC assessments will be available beginning November 6.

Contact DESE assessment at [assessment@dese.mo.gov](mailto:assessment@dese.mo.gov) for questions about graduating students who may need an ELA, Math or Science EOC assessment prior to November 6.

### **Manual/Trainings**

The EOC Test Coordinator's Manual (TCM) and DESE's EOC Trainings are now posted on the [EOC website](#) under the Manual/Trainings tab. These are brief PowerPoint slides covering various important EOC topics.

### **Nextera Training for DTCs**

Nextera training is available now on the [Nextera Administration site](#) under Help>Training>Training Module – Nextera Admin Overview 2017. For additional information on Nextera training, please call Questar's Customer Service at 800-571-2545 or email [mocustomersupport@questarai.com](mailto:mocustomersupport@questarai.com)

### **Science Field Test**

As stated in the May 23, 2017, administrative memo, DESE will administer stand-alone field tests in Biology during the fall 2017 and spring 2018 assessment windows and in Physical Science in spring 2018. These field tests will align to the new standards adopted by the State Board in April 2016. No operational assessments in science will be administered in 2017-2018.

Participation in the Biology EOC is required. All students who would have taken an operational EOC in Science should 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 data on these assessments and students will not receive Individual Student Reports (ISRs). In addition, districts will not be charged for Science field tests.

### **Updated Writing Prompt**

The English I and English II assessments now feature an updated writing prompt. New items reflect changes in the standards and are now more rigorous. Students will be expected to cite source evidence as part of their answers. Responses are expected to blend multiple genres of writing together, including narrative, expository and argumentative. The 10-point items will continue to be scored on conventions, development and organization. Scoring guides may be found on the DESE Assessment EOC website under the Resources tab.

### **Practice Forms**

Practice test forms aligned to the new MLS Expectations will be available on [Nextera](#) and at the [DESE website](#) for students who need a paper assessment. New practice forms for all ELA and Mathematics EOC assessments will be available on October 30. Existing Government and American History pre-tests are available through [Nextera](#) and on the DESE assessment website now. Science practice forms are not available in fall 2017.

## Braille

This year ELA and Social Studies EOC assessments transition from English Braille American Edition (EBAE) to Unified English Braille (UEB). Both editions will be available for English I, English II, Government and American History through the 2019-20 school year. Beginning in 2020-21, only UEB will be offered. Braille assessments in all subjects except EBAE Social Studies will be unavailable until January 2018. If a graduating student needs to take an ELA, Math or Science EOC Braille assessment in the fall window, please contact DESE assessment at [assessment@dese.mo.gov](mailto:assessment@dese.mo.gov).

## Updated Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 EOC Calendar

Date	Event
9/16/17	First Fall Pre-Code Window Closes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students available in <a href="#">Nextera</a> 10/4/17</li> <li>• ELA, Mathematics and Biology will be available in Nextera 10/30/17</li> <li>• Students may begin testing 10/5/17</li> </ul>
10/4/17	Online practice forms available for Social Studies – Online in <a href="#">Nextera</a> and Paper/Pencil on the <a href="#">DESE website</a>
10/5/17	EOC Fall Window Opens for Government and American History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Braille EBAE Social Studies assessments available for testing</li> </ul>
10/30/17	Online practice forms available in ELA and Mathematics
11/6/17	Second Fall Pre-Code Window Closes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students available in <a href="#">Nextera</a> 11/13/17</li> <li>• Students may begin testing 11/20/17</li> </ul>
11/6/17	EOC Fall Window Opens for Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, English I, English II, and Biology assessments
1/19/18	EOC Fall Window Closes
1/29/18	First Spring Pre-Code Window Closes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students available in <a href="#">Nextera</a> 2/12/18</li> <li>• Students may begin testing 2/19/18</li> </ul>
2/19/18	EOC Spring Window Opens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, English I, English II, Biology, Physical Science, Government and American History available for testing</li> <li>• Braille EBAE and UEB available for ELA and Social Studies assessments</li> <li>• Braille Mathematics and Science assessments available</li> </ul>
3/5/18	Second Spring Pre-Code Window Closes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students available in <a href="#">Nextera</a> 3/19/18</li> <li>• Students may begin testing 3/26/18</li> </ul>
4/2/18	Final Spring Pre-Code Window Closes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students available in <a href="#">Nextera</a> 4/16/18</li> <li>• Students may begin testing 4/23/18</li> </ul>
5/25/18	EOC Spring Window Closes