

Missouri Assessment Program Frequently Asked Questions March 25, 2021

In accordance with the guidance issued by the United States Education Department (USED), the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is administering Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) tests this year to collect critical information about the impact of the pandemic on student learning. MAP assessment data inform public reporting, allocation of resources and policy decisions. Complete information on this announcement can be found in [Administrative Memo CCR-21-005](#).

2020-21 Assessment: Spring 2021 Testing

Q1 – Can LEAs decide when to test their students?

A1 – Local education agencies (LEAs) should plan to test all students during the spring testing window. The 2020-21 Fall MAP Completion window is reserved only for approved LEAs to administer assessments to students who were not able to test during the spring 2021 test window.

Q2 – When and how should Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program (MOCAP) students be tested?

A2 – MOCAP students should be tested in the same way as students receiving traditional instruction. They should be tested onsite during the scheduled test window.

Q3 – Can LEAs choose to test half of their students this spring and the other half in the 2020-21 Fall MAP Completion window?

A3 – No. LEAs must make every effort to meet the 85 percent participation rate target by the end of the extended spring 2021 window.

Q4 – How will LEAs assess eighth grade students who are leaving K-8 districts or charter schools if they do not take spring 2021 assessments?

A4 – These students should be tested in the spring 2021 window before they transition to a new LEA. If these students are not tested, it results in a level not determined (LND) for the K-8 district or charter school.

Q5 – What about seniors who needed to take an End-of-Course (EOC) but did not test this spring?

A5 – These students should be tested in spring 2021 before they graduate. If these students are not tested, it results in a Graduate LND for the LEA.

Q6 – How will transfer students be treated this year?

A6 – Transfer students should be tested if they are present during your scheduled test window.

Q7 – What information must LEAs maintain to document the reasons for not testing individual students in spring 2021?

A7 – LEAs should document the reason students were not tested. Examples may include parental refusal, quarantine status or lost contact with students. LEAs should also document their efforts to ensure all students were tested in the spring.

Q8 – How does an LEA know if it has reached the 85 percent participation rate target?

A8 – The same methods employed in the past to ensure that at least 95 percent of students are tested should be used for the 85 percent target. Refer to the [MSIP5 Comprehensive Guide](#) for information about the calculations.

Q9 – Can LEAs request medical waivers for immunocompromised students?

A9 – Waivers are not necessary, immunocompromised students will fall within the allotted 15 percent of students not testing.

Q10 – What should an LEA do if a parent/guardian declines to bring their student onsite for testing?

A10 – The LEA should document the parent’s/guardian’s refusal to bring their student onsite for testing. This may include written communication or notes taken from oral communication.

Q11 – Can an LEA put off EOC testing until 2021-22 for students who are not seniors?

A11 – An LEA should assess students when it awards credit for course completion.

2020-21 Assessment: 2020-21 Fall MAP Completion window

Q1 – How does an LEA apply to use the 2020-21 Fall MAP Completion window?

A1 – DESE will provide an application for testing during the 2020-21 Fall MAP Completion window in June. LEAs wishing to apply should be prepared to document steps taken to meet the 85 percent participation rate during the extended spring 2021 window.

Q2 – Will students tested in the 2020-21 Fall MAP Completion window be tested on the previous year’s grade content?

A2 – Yes. The assessments administered during the 2020-21 Fall MAP Completion window will be a “make-up” for the missed spring 2021 assessments.

Q3 – Which LEAs will be able to participate in the 2020-21 Fall MAP Completion window?

A3 – LEAs that were unable to test at least 85 percent of their students during the spring 2021 test window and have received DESE approval of their application may use the fall testing window.

Q4 – What if an LEA does not meet the 85 percent participation target but does not apply for the 2020-21 Fall MAP Completion window?

A4 – DESE will notify an LEA if it does not meet the 85 percent participation target and supply the necessary application to participate in the 2020-21 Fall MAP Completion window.

Q5 – Will there be make-up dates following the 2020-21 Fall MAP Completion window?

A5 – No. Make-up dates will not be available.

Q6 – When will data from the 2020-21 Fall MAP Completion window be available for LEAs?

A6 – Vendor-provided data (Individual Student Reports (ISRs), rosters, etc.) are expected to be available for LEAs in November. More specific information is forthcoming.

Q7 – What assessments will be available in the 2020-21 Fall MAP Completion window?

A7 – The assessments required for accountability purposes, with the exception of MAP-A and ACCESS, will be available for administration (English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science Grade-Level assessments and Government, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, English II and Biology EOC assessments).

Q8 – Will the 2020-21 Fall MAP Completion window administration affect the Missouri Student Information System (MOSIS) data submission schedule?

A8 – No impact to the MOSIS data submission schedule has been identified at this time.

2020-21 Assessment: Reporting and Accountability

Q1 – Will the participation rate requirement remain at 95 percent for the 2020-21 school year?

A1 – No. DESE will apply for a waiver from USED to reduce the participation rate to 85 percent.

Q2 – What other waivers will DESE request?

A2 – DESE will request a waiver from identifying schools for improvement under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). USED indicated that it will not waive assessment and reporting requirements. DESE will also apply for a waiver of the one percent MAP-A cap. While we expect near normal numbers of MAP-A assessments, a reduction in Grade-Level and EOC assessments administered could drive a rate change.

Q3 – Can we assume the participation rate will remain at the 85 percent level in the future?

A3 – No. The 2020-21 Fall MAP Completion window is considered part of the 2020-21 school year's assessment administration and the participation rate of 85 percent is for the 2020-21 school year only.

Q4 – Will the data from spring 2021 assessments be combined with the data from the 2020-21 Fall MAP Completion window?

A4 – Yes. The data will be combined to determine the 2020-21 participation rate. 2020-21 Fall MAP Completion window data will be reported separately from the spring 2021 test data on the report card. Data may be aggregated if required for federal reporting purposes.

2021-22 Assessment

Q1 – Will the 2020-21 Fall MAP Completion window affect the 2021-22 test windows?

A1 – Yes. The summer 2021 EOC window will be rescheduled and the fall 2021 EOC window will open later than it has in prior years. More information about specific test windows is forthcoming.

Q2 – If an LEA administers tests in the 2020-21 Fall MAP Completion window, is it required to assess the same students in spring 2022?

A2 – Yes. LEAs are required to administer 2021-22 assessments as appropriate for students' grade- or course-levels.