

Testimony Regarding Score Reporting Schedules for the Kansas Assessment Program

The University of Kansas Achievement and Assessment Institute (AAI), of which I am director, provides test development, administration, and reporting services for the Kansas State Department of Education. We provide an annual testing window of between six and seven weeks to give local education agencies (LEAs) the flexibility they have requested around test administration. Once the test administration window closes, AAI processes all of the data, performs appropriate quality control, and then releases the scores to LEAs about 10 calendar days after the window closes.

The table shows this year's and last year's schedules for the English language arts and mathematics summative assessments in grades 3–8 and grade 10, and for the science assessments in grades 5, 8, and 11. These summative assessments are taken by about 99% of students; the remaining students participate in the Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment, a test designed specifically for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

Event	2019	2020
Administration window opens	March 11	March 16
Administration window closes	April 26	May 1
Score reports released	May 6	May 11

In most years, it is theoretically possible to report sooner—once a district has completed its testing—but the Kansas Assessment Advisory Committee (representatives from 50 Kansas LEAs covering all state board member regions and representing various district sizes both urban and rural) voted not to do so over concerns of potential and/or perceived educator improprieties; it would be possible for educators to look at student scores and, if not satisfied, to reopen the tests and have students correct their answers.

Periodically there is an exception to this schedule. When state standards are revised (usually every seven years), extra activities need to occur that require gathering teachers in the summer to participate in a rigorous process to recommend what scores are sufficient to denote a student as having met proficiency standards. These recommendations then need to be approved by the Kansas State Board of Education before scores can be reported. Typically, in the first year of testing new curriculum standards, the final score release would occur in the fall after the tests were completed.

It is also worth noting that Kansas schools have another tool to help identify students at risk and thus support academic planning. The predictive interim assessments in English language arts and mathematics are available at no cost to all Kansas schools. They are available in the same grades as the summative assessments. At the option of individual schools, these tests may be taken in a fall, winter, and early spring window (in any combination), and we report the likely performance of each participating student on the end-of-year summative assessment. Because of recent changes to the state curriculum standards in grades 8 and 11 mathematics, we have not had as many predictive interim assessment windows at those grades this year or last year, but we expect to offer all three windows in the 2020–2021 school year. We are planning to add a predictive interim assessment in science at grades 5, 8, and 11 for the 2022–2023 school year.

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