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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Data Managers, Principals, Curriculum Directors, CFP Team Leads, District Test Administrators, Special Education Directors, CTE Directors

FROM: Zoie Saunders, M.Ed., Secretary

SUBJECT: Assessment and Accountability Processes

DATE: January 10, 2025

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### Purpose

Thank you for participating in the Listen and Learn regional convenings. We have received a lot of feedback and are excited to work with you to improve our assessment and accountability processes.

One theme that emerged relates to improving the usage of state assessment results and other measures of school quality. Specifically, we consistently heard the need to report the data earlier in the school year. We are prioritizing this work and need your input and your assistance. To report all measures of school quality, including state assessment results, closer to the start of the school year, AOE will need the source data for these measures earlier; therefore, several changes will need to be implemented to the timeline on which SU/SDs report data to AOE.

Feedback on the questions below will be collected [in this form](#). We request feedback by January 31, 2025.

### Assessment and Accountability Reporting Timeline

First, students' demographic information and enrollment data would need to be submitted to AOE earlier in the year. Currently, this data is due to AOE by the end of July and validated in August and throughout the fall. To release assessment results publicly before the start of the school year, this work will need to be completed by the end of June. We will need your support and help to ensure this is possible.

### Questions:

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- Do you have concerns about your SU/SD's ability to complete end of year data collection by June 30, 2025?
  - If so, what are your concerns?
  - How can AOE better support this process?

Further, to report key measures of school quality earlier in the school year, AOE will need to work with SU/SD staff to identify and validate summer graduates in early September with the goal of working toward reporting graduation rate data in October. Currently, information about summer graduates is submitted to AOE in early October and the data is validated in October and November.

**Questions:**

- Do you have concerns about your SU/SD's ability to identify and validate summer graduates in September?
- If so, what are your concerns?
- How can AOE better support this process?

Finally, to report all measures of school quality in Vermont's school accountability system earlier in the school year, some measures of school quality, specifically some for high schools, would need to be put on a one-year lag or replaced with alternate measures of school quality.

Under Vermont's current school accountability system, measures of school quality in high schools include assessment results, graduation rate, proficiency on college and career readiness assessments, and enrollment in post-secondary institutions within 16 months of graduation.

The reporting of college and career readiness assessment results and post-secondary enrollment data is dependent on external organizations (e.g., College Board, National Student Clearinghouse). As such, to include these measures of school quality in Vermont's accountability system for high schools *and* report accountability results earlier in the fall (e.g., October), these data would need to be put on a one-year lag. Alternatively, these measures could be removed from Vermont's school accountability system and replaced with alternative measures.

**Questions:**

- Do you think Vermont high schools should be held accountable to students' performance on college and career readiness assessments?

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- Do you have concerns about lagging the reporting of this data one school year?
  - Do you think Vermont high schools should be held accountable to students' enrollment in post-secondary institutions?
    - Do you have concerns about lagging the reporting of this data one school year?
  - Are there alternative measures of school quality for high schools you think should be considered? (The most common alternatives to measures of college and career readiness include chronic absenteeism and measures of school climate.)

### **Assessment Results Reporting Reminder**

- Detailed student assessment results (for all tested students) are included in the ADAM assessment management system/dashboard for VTCAP and in LENS for MSAA. Contact your District Test Coordinator for access.
- Assessment results with enrollment criteria applied are reported in the Vermont Education Dashboard here: [Vermont Education Dashboard: Assessment](#)
- Assessment results with accountability calculations applied are reported in the here: [Annual Snapshot](#).