
MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Independent School Headmasters, Principals
District Test Administrators (DAs) and Alternate DAs

FROM: Wendy Geller, Director of Data Management & Analysis Division

SUBJECT: State plan for releasing 2020-2021 Assessment Results

DATE: October 7, 2021

Purpose

This memo to SU/SD and school leadership shares important information related to the State's plan for releasing 2020-2021 assessment results.

Context

During the 2020-2021 academic year, schools across the country were expected, mostly without exception, to administer federally required statewide assessments of English language arts (ELA), mathematics, science, and English language proficiency (ELP).

As a state, we applied for a waiver of accountability and requested a waiver for administration and reporting of the Vermont Physical Education Assessment (VTPEA) due to safety concerns. The United States Department of Education (USED) approved our accountability waiver request as well as our administration and reporting waiver request for the VTPEA. However, all states remain required to report assessment results from the 2020-2021 school year for those assessments that were conducted.

In reporting these data, we must remain mindful of the broader context these assessments were situated within as well as how statewide assessments were administered last year.

Specifically, the general student experience during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years was vastly different than in any other year.

From March 2020 through June 2020, all students abruptly transitioned to remote learning. We understand that how students received instruction and services varied across the state. During the 2020-2021 school year, learning modality varied widely throughout Vermont and over the course of the school year.

Contact Information:

For more information on our statewide assessments and assessment results, please contact AOE.statewide_assessment@vermont.gov.

For more information on required data collections, please visit our [Data Collection](#) website.

With all this in mind, we understand that all Vermont's SU/SDs and schools took great care to offer and facilitate assessment opportunities for every student required to participate, while also maintaining a safe and secure space for students and educators.

During school year 2020-2021, all summative assessments were administered in person and participation was variable for many reasons. For example, we observed students not testing due to being medically vulnerable and unable to come into their school building, among other scenarios.

Given these contextual features and the conditions of test administration, we must also consider the basic challenges for interpreting results in terms of growth and trends. We do not have assessment results (ELA, math, science) for the 2019-2020 school year and because test administration during 2020-2021 was impacted by several, novel variables, we discourage comparing 2020-2021 results to any prior year's results. We've considered ways to support stakeholders in accessing assessment results as they become available and are pleased to share those plans with you here.

2020-2021 Statewide Assessment Results Release Schedule

Note: The Agency of Education reserves the right to amend this schedule at any time.

ELA, Math, and Science General Assessments

- Individual Student Reports – RELEASED June 14, 2021
 - Available for school and district internal use only starting 10 days after test completion
 - Available for sharing with students' caregivers as of June 14, 2021
 - Results are still not available to the public at this point
 - Updated with school and district aggregate results on August 30, 2021
- School and district results *EMBARGOED* -- August 30, 2021
 - Available for school and district internal use only
 - Considered final in Cambium Reporting System
- Preliminary State level aggregate results – late October/early November 2021
 - Aggregate preliminary results will be publicly released with the 2021 [Vermont Education Dashboard \(VED\)](#)
 - Participation rates will not be included in this release as student enrollment data will not be finalized at this time
 - A press release will accompany this publication of aggregate state-level results
 - School and district level results are still embargoed and should not be shared publicly
- Full public release of 2020-2021 – January 2022
 - Annual Snapshot and the [Vermont Education Dashboard \(VED\)](#) for 2020-2021 school year published
 - At this time, all publicly sharable results are unembargoed and may be responsibly shared with stakeholders

Alternate Assessments of ELA, Math, and Science

- Full public release of 2020-2021 – January 2022
 - [Vermont Education Dashboard \(VED\)](#) for 2020-2021 school year published
 - At this time, all publicly sharable results are unembargoed and may be responsibly shared with stakeholders
 - Note that the small number of test takers does not allow us to have an earlier release of estimated results because any estimate based on a small number of test takers introduces a real risk of reporting inaccurate results.

English Language Proficiency (ACCESS for ELLs 2.0)

- Full public release of 2020-2021 – January 2022
 - Annual Snapshot for 2020-2021 school year published
 - At this time, all publicly sharable results are unembargoed and may be responsibly shared with stakeholders
 - Note that the small number of test takers does not allow us to have an earlier release of estimated results because any estimate based on a small number of test takers introduces a real risk of reporting inaccurate results.

Factors that Influence Timeline of Assessment Results Release

There are several factors that influence the timing of our statewide summative results release. Working together as a community supports this timeline being optimal.

Districts' timely and complete submission of the DC04 Year End Official data submission via edFusion allows us to certify end of year enrollment, match data from the test delivery system to demographic and enrollment data and prepare the results for release.

Districts can support more timely release of assessment results by ensuring these data are submitted complete and on time.

This past July, there was an outage of access to edFusion during the collection window for DC04 Year End Official. We are conscious that this outage impacted the timing of LEA's 2021 submissions.

For More Information

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