



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

Updates Related to Coronavirus (COVID-19): Statewide Assessment & Accountability Guidance March 20, 2020

Background

As part of the District's response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States, OSSE is sharing some updated guidance regarding policies and practices related to statewide assessments and the statewide accountability system.

Scope

This document contains details and policies specifically relating to the **required statewide summative assessments** scheduled to be administered during this period, as well as to updates to the **DC School Report Card and STAR Framework for school year 2019-20 (SY19-20)**. This policy guidance supersedes the Statewide Assessment Guidance previously sent out to local education agencies (LEAs) on March 15, 2020.

Effective Date

This policy will take effect Monday, March 23, 2020 and will remain in effect until further notice. We will update LEAs with additional policy language and guidance as more information becomes available.

Policy Guidance

U.S. Department of Education Requirements

In light of the school closures necessitated by the COVID-19 public health emergency, OSSE intends to request a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education, pursuant to section 8401(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended, of the requirements to both administer Statewide assessments and to implement a statewide accountability system for school year 2019-20. We anticipate approval of this waiver within the coming week.

Statewide Assessment Guidance for Spring 2020 Administration

- OSSE has cancelled statewide summative assessments for students in spring 2020. This impacts the PARCC, DC Science, Multi-State Alternate Assessments (MSAA), Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM), and all remaining ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 and Alternate ACCESS assessments.
- OSSE is aware that the ACCESS assessment process was interrupted by school schedule changes and there are some students who fully completed this assessment, some who have completed portions of the assessment, and some students who had not yet begun testing. OSSE is working very closely with its testing vendor, Data Recognition Corporation, to determine if there is a way to provide assessment results to students who completed testing for school-based decision-making and decisions on exiting services. OSSE will reach out to LEAs directly with additional information on secure test closeout and information on how to address any secure materials.

- Testing will not proceed for PARCC, DC Science, MSAA, or DLM in spring 2020. This means that all required activities for test administration and test security preparations at the LEA and school levels no longer need to occur. As such, there will be no secure materials shipped to schools for spring 2020. Given that statewide assessments have been cancelled for spring 2020, there will be no results release in the summer.
- Statewide assessments will resume in spring 2021. The Office of Assessments will be working closely with LEAs this summer to prepare for a successful administration next year.

DC School Report Card and Star Framework

- Given the impact of school closures on statewide testing, as well as many other essential components of the DC School Report Card and STAR framework, OSSE is also suspending development and calculation of new STAR Ratings for SY19-20.
- OSSE is continuing to carefully review and consider the following topics:
 - Whether in spite of the suspension of *new* STAR ratings, OSSE will still publish and report other pieces of information on the DC School Report Card for the dates in which school was in session (i.e. attendance, discipline, school programs, etc.).
 - Options and implications for designated Comprehensive support and Targeted Support schools.

Additional guidance on these and other topics will be forthcoming in the coming weeks.

Again, in all decisions, OSSE will consider relevant federal and local requirements, and fairness to LEAs and schools, during this dynamic time.

Questions?

If you have questions relating to this policy, please contact OSSE's Director of Assessments, Danielle Branson at Danielle.Branson@dc.gov or OSSE's Director of Accountability, Donna Johnson at DonnaR.Johnson@dc.gov