



**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**MOLLY M. SPEARMAN**  
*STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION*

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** District Superintendents  
District Instructional Leaders  
District Test Coordinators  
School Principals  
Teachers

**FROM:** Molly M. Spearman  
State Superintendent of Education

**DATE:** March 23, 2020

**RE:** Spring 2020 Assessment and Accountability Updates

We are pleased to announce that our request for the assessment and accountability waiver has been approved by the U.S. Department of Education and is supported by the State Board of Education.

For spring 2020, South Carolina will not administer any of the following assessment programs:

- SC READY (English language arts and mathematics in grades 3–8);
- SCPASS (science in grades 4 and 6);
- End-of-Course Examination Program (English, Algebra, Biology, United States History and the Constitution) the requirement that these examinations count 20 percent has been waived;
- Prekindergarten assessments – 4-year-old kindergarten (*Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS Pre-K™)*, *Individual Growth and Development Indicators (myIGDIs™)*, and *Teaching Strategies® GOLD*); and
- Alternate Assessments – some students have already taken the alternate assessments. Districts will receive information for returning those materials.

To the extent possible, districts should administer the following tests in spring 2020. The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is working closely with the vendors of the tests listed

below to identify rescheduled testing dates and to explore innovative approaches (such as testing online), where possible. The SCDE will provide additional information as it becomes available.

Assessments include:

- Grade 10 Pre-ACT, PSAT, and Aspire;
- The ACT or SAT;
- Advanced Placement and Cambridge International Exams; and
- WIN Ready to Work.

Exams for International Baccalaureate courses have been canceled by the vendor.

The following requirements under the Every Students Succeeds Act (ESSA) shall be in place:

- the state's accountability system, requiring that designations made in fall 2019 remain in effect for one additional year;
- the English language proficiency assessment is waived;
- the ESSA required 95 percent participation rate on federally-required assessments is waived;
- the alternate measure of achievement (which is South Carolina's "Growth" metric on the report card) is waived;
- the student success or school quality metrics (which in South Carolina is the "Student Progress" metric, the "Student Engagement" metric, and the "College and Career Readiness" metric) is waived; and
- certain public reporting requirements are waived.

This flexibility will allow us to focus on addressing this public health pandemic and meeting the immediate and most important needs of the students and faculty we serve. If you have any questions about assessments, please contact Elizabeth Jones at [ejones@ed.sc.gov](mailto:ejones@ed.sc.gov). If you have any questions about the accountability system, please contact John Payne at [jrpayne@ed.sc.gov](mailto:jrpayne@ed.sc.gov).