

March 9, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Each year, New Hampshire public and charter schools are required by state law (RSA 193-C) and federal accountability laws (Every Student Succeeds Act) to assess students using a standardized assessment. We utilize several assessments in order to comply with these requirements. The U.S. Department of Education is requiring states to administer the state summative assessments this year. For more details about our statewide assessments please visit the [Office of Assessment Website](#) or contact Melissa.White@doe.nh.gov.

Schools are working hard to coordinate the administration of the statewide assessments to ensure students have access to the assessments in a safe environment. The assessments must be taken in person. If a parent/guardian is not comfortable with having their child take the assessment in person, they can choose to exempt their child from participation. If you have questions about test administration at your school, please contact the school principal.

Statewide assessments are an important part of a student's core educational program. They provide:

- An evaluation of student mastery of content and skills in various academic areas
- Serve as one tool for measuring the degree to which students are on track to graduate high school and be college- and career-ready
- Help inform future instruction in the classroom

Along with student work on classroom assignments, projects, essays, and local formative and summative assessments, statewide summative assessment results provide teachers and parents with important information about where students are on their path toward academic success.

Below are the required assessments for public and charter school students:

Assessment	Grades	Content
NH Statewide Assessment System (NH SAS)	3 rd -8 th	English Language Arts, Mathematics
NH SAS	5 th , 8 th , & 11 th	Science
SAT with Essay (School Day only)	11 th	English Language Arts, Mathematics
Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM)	3 rd -8 th , 11 th	Alternate Assessment
ACCESS	K-12	English Language Development (Only for English Language Learning Students that qualify)

Performance Assessment Competency Education (PACE) Schools

Performance Assessments will not be administered for accountability this year. Therefore, all PACE schools are required to take the NHSAS in ELA and Math for grades 3-8 and Science grades 5, 8 & 11.

Please click [2020-2021 Statewide Assessment Calendar](#) for specific information on the state testing windows.

Exemption

Parents are allowed to exempt their child from participation in the statewide assessments (permitted in RSA 193-C:6). Parents must complete and submit an exemption form that is provided by the school or district. Please contact the local school to receive a copy of the exemption form. Please understand that if you choose to exempt your child from the assessment, no scores or summary of individual student performance, based on the statewide assessment, will be provided for your child.

Results

Student results for the NH SAS are generally available immediately upon the student completing the test. The school will send a student's Individual Score Report (ISR) home before the end of the school year. If you prefer to see the results once your child has completed the NH SAS, please contact your child's teacher.

Lexile reading and **Quantile mathematics scores** will be available on the (ISR). You can visit this [resource](#) to find more information on how to use these measures to understand a student's reading and math level.

SAT results will be available in May and June and students will have access to the portal to obtain the results directly. Results of the DLM and ACCESS tests should be provided by your student’s case manager. Please contact the school directly with questions on when to expect to receive these results.

Practice Tests

Parents may access training tests for the NH SAS by going to the NHSAS assessment portal at: <https://nh.portal.airast.org/training-tests.stml>.

SAT also offers a range of practice opportunities on their website, students that practice in the portal are eligible for scholarships <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/practice>

Average Testing Times

Grades 3-8	NH SAS	Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alternate Assessment
English Language Arts/Reading	2 hours, 15 minutes	90-135 minutes
English Language Arts/Writing	2 hours	10-20 minutes
Mathematics	2 hours, 15 minutes	60-120 minutes
Grades 5, 8, 11	NH SAS - Science	DLM - Science
Science	2 hours	90-140 minutes
Grade 11	Digital SAT School Day with Essay	DLM
English Language Arts and Mathematics	4 hours, 7 minutes	Same as listed above for ELA/Reading, ELA/Writing, mathematics and science

Following are frequently asked questions about the assessment administration this year

Question	Answers for Consideration
Why is the state testing students this year, given that instructional time is already so limited? What does the state hope to learn about student academic performance from the test results?	We understand the incredible challenges that students and teachers have overcome to engage in learning this year. The pandemic forced our school buildings to close and pivot to remote learning, and our students have had varied experiences. It makes measuring student learning and identifying potential gaps more important than ever. We must understand where students are academically to know how our schools can best meet their needs. High-quality assessments are an important tool to drive equitable outcomes for all students. We can only address the inequities, and the gaps that may have widened as a result of the pandemic, if we have accurate data on where students are, the strengths they have built, and the challenges they face.
Is the US Dept. of Ed. allowing for assessment waivers this year?	No, USED is requiring all states to administer the summative assessments.
Are students required to come into the building to take the assessments?	Yes, in person administration of the assessments is required. There may be ability to do a limited administration of the NHSAS assessments for students that do not return to school by June 11, 2021. DLM, SAT and ACCESS require in person administration.
How should schools prioritize the assessments if students are in the building on a limited basis?	NH Dept. of Ed. suggests prioritizing accordingly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACCESS test for eligible EL students in grades 3-8, followed by NHSAS Math and ELA • 11th grade students should take the School Day SAT with Essay (followed by ACCESS for EL students) • 3rd – 8th grade students NHSAS Math and ELA. • NHSAS Science for 5th, 8th and 11th graders is required but prioritize as the last administration.
What if a student is not returning to in person instruction this school year but will remain in remote instruction?	SAT, DLM and ACCESS will be required to be administered in person. If a parent is not comfortable with their child participating in person, they can choose to exempt their student from the assessment. Schools must provide parents/guardians with a school generated exemption form. An exemption template is provided for schools on our website.
Can the NHSAS Summative be administered remotely?	At this time, no, the NHSAS cannot be administered remotely due to security constraints in administration and the ability to administer with accommodations. NH Dept. of Ed. is working on the possibility to remotely administer the NHSAS Summative tests in late May for a limited numbers of students. We will keep schools advised on this availability. Students that remain in remote instruction will not be required to take the remote assessment.
Can parents exempt their child from the assessments?	Yes, NH RSA 193-C:6 permits parents to exempt their student from participating in the required statewide assessment system. The RSA states that the school must provide the form to the parent/guardian. A template that schools can use is available on our website in English and Spanish. Schools should keep these forms for assessment monitoring.
Are schools required to provide parents with the assessment results?	Yes, RSA-193C:10 and RSA-193C:11 require schools to provide parents with the results of assessments. NHSAS, DLM, SAT and ACCESS reports can be accessed in the portal and a PDF report can be generated and emailed or printed for parents. SAT results can also be accessed via the parent portal on College Board’s website.
What about the 95% participation rate requirement?	USED is offering states the ability to request an accountability waiver for the 95% participation rate requirement and the NHDOE will continue to work with USED on submitting a waiver for this requirement.

Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Section 1111(b)(2) and New Hampshire law, RSA 193-C:6 requires each school district in the State to implement a set of high-quality academic assessments that includes, at a minimum, assessments in mathematics, reading/language arts and science to be administered in each of grades 3-8 and not less than once during grades 10-12; and in science not less than once during grades 3-5, grades 6-9, and grades 10-12. Furthermore, ESSA sections 1111(b)(2)(B) require State assessments to be the “same academic assessments used to measure the achievement of all public elementary school and secondary school students in the State,” and provide for the participation in such assessments to all students.