

Be Prepared to Provide Test Administrator Initials

DRC began collecting Test Administrator (TA) initials during the Winter Keystone Exams to support PDE’s review of grouped results. The TA initials will be used within research data provided to PDE only and will not be added to any district or public data files or reports. The collection of TA initials will continue with the 2019 spring and summer assessments.

For the paper/pencil administrations, a new grid has been added to the back page of the answer booklets to bubble the Test Administrator initials. The administrator’s initials must be bubbled on each booklet distributed for the PSSA and Keystone Exams.

The eDIRECT Test Setup functionality has been configured to require that a test administrator (teacher) is associated with every test session established for both online and paper/pencil administrations. Test administrator names can be uploaded to eDIRECT via the “Teacher Management” functionality (the same functionality that is required for CDT tests).

The test administrator names assigned to the paper/pencil test sessions will be overwritten by the initials bubbled on the student answer booklets. (The TA names for the online test sessions will be retained.) Because the paper/pencil test-session information is not permanent, LEAs can assign all paper/pencil test sessions to a single, generic teacher account to complete the setup process more efficiently.

PSSA Early Reporting is Here!

All PSSA answer booklets that are shipped to DRC by May 3, 2019, as well as all online tests, will be included in Early Reporting for the 2019 PSSA! Early-reporting Student Performance Files will be released May 31 on eDIRECT, and early-reporting Parent Letters will be available June 3 on Data Interaction. Answer booklets returned after May 3 (or returned improperly) will not be included in early reporting; however, those student records will be included in a second round of PSSA reporting on June 25, 2019.

DRC does not need to receive all subjects for a student to include the student record in early reporting. For example, if DRC receives a student’s ELA booklet before the early-reporting deadline and a math booklet after the deadline, the student’s ELA results will be included in early reporting and the student’s math results will be included in the second round of PSSA reporting. The second round of PSSA reporting will include cumulative Student Performance Files and expanded Parent Letters. Student scores from both early reporting and the second round of reporting will be included for all accountability reporting.

To take advantage of the early reporting opportunity, schools should return their answer booklets as soon as the majority of the student population has finished each assessment. Schools should not wait until all assessments are completed to return materials. Assessment Coordinators should give priority to returning the boxes of answer booklets to meet the May 3 deadline. The boxes of test booklets can be sent in separate shipments after the close of the PSSA test window. See page 4 for more dates.

Year-round OTT Access

On January 4, 2019, the INSIGHT landing page was revised to provide users access to the new CDT Diagnostic Category Tests and an all-assessment Online Tools Training (OTT) link. This new OTT link allows students to access each assessment’s tools training throughout the year, regardless of testing window dates. Within the link, students will select a specific assessment’s OTT and will have access to all functionality as they have in the past.



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Contact DRC PA Customer Service 1-800-451-7849
Email: PAcustomerservice@datarecognitioncorp.com
eDIRECT website: <https://www.drcredirect.com>

CDT Diagnostic Category Tests are Available

On January 28, 2019, DRC released the new CDT Diagnostic Category Tests. These new tests provide students with a shorter testing experience, while at the same time allowing teachers to focus instruction and testing to a specific diagnostic category to gain valuable information targeted to a student's specific area of need. Schools have access to **50 new CDT Diagnostic Category Tests** across math, reading, science, and writing. The diagnostic category tests for reading are about half the length of the full CDT. The math, science, and writing tests consist of approximately 15-18 items.

The CDT Diagnostic Category Tests generate the same level of dynamic and interactive reports as the full CDT; however, they do so in a new platform that provides more intuitive reports and data. Additionally, in fall 2019, the reporting tool will make it possible for teachers to see full test scores and diagnostic category test scores in the same report view. You can find more information about the new diagnostic category reporting tool from the recorded training sessions available on eDIRECT.

Required Transition to Central Office Services

DRC will fully transition from the Testing Site Manager (TSM) to the Central Office Services—Service Device (COS SD) this summer, making the 2019 Summer Keystone Exams the first Pennsylvania assessment for which the TSM will no longer be supported by DRC.

The COS SD provides schools with many advantages over the current TSM, including installation options based on a testing site's size and needs, enhanced scalability to support a larger number of concurrent users for each service device, and centralized security through the DRC INSIGHT Portal (eDIRECT). The COS SD also delivers enhanced content handling with greater visibility to content downloads, provides support for hosting content for multiple testing programs, and has the ability to limit downloads to the needed content only.

DRC hosted WebEx trainings on March 5 and 7 to prepare Technology Coordinators for the full transition from the TSM to the COS SD. If you were unable to attend the training, the presentation and a recording of the training session can be accessed from eDIRECT—*General Information >> Documents >> All [Administration] >> Technology [Document Type]*.

Technology-Enhanced Science Items

PDE and DRC are preparing to add technology-enhanced (TE) items into the 2019-2020 Science CDT assessments. These new TE items were reviewed by Pennsylvania educators in January and will appear as field-test items within the operational Science CDT tests in Fall 2019. Student performance on the new item types will not affect student scores on the CDT.

These exciting new items leverage the sophistication of the online platform to deliver content designed to elicit evidence of a broad range of student understanding. Each item provides opportunities for students to interact with enhanced features to show their understanding of the standards, skills, and concepts taught. The TE items are more engaging to students, mirror classroom instruction, and provide a valid and reliable measure of a given content standard.

The CDT Online Tools Training (OTT) for the 2019-2020 administration will include TE items to allow students and educators a chance to interact with the new item types. Schools will be encouraged to have their students access the OTTs prior to taking a Science CDT in the next school year. Because TE items require an online-only administration, the items will appear in the CDT tests only. PDE has no current plans to expand the use of TE items beyond the Science CDT.

PA System Status Indicator

The PA System Status Indicator reports normal operations or problems and outages. It is located on the [eDIRECT welcome page](#) and can be accessed using the link <http://status.drcedirect.com/PA/> to view current status for INSIGHT, eDIRECT, Central Office Services, and the TSM. The webpage provides indicators and messaging for the status of these systems. If a problem or outage occurs, DRC will post updates to this site to keep users informed of progress and resolution. If your LEA experiences issues while testing online, you should access this webpage to determine if there is a system-wide problem or outage.

2018-2019 Winter Keystone Exams

The 2018-2019 Winter Keystone Exams District Student Data Files were released on March 7, 2019 and the Parent Letters will be released on March 14, 2019. The Summary Reports will be released on April 4, 2019.

2019 Spring Keystone Exams

The Spring Keystone Exams testing window is May 13-24, 2019. The Algebra I, Literature, and Biology exams should be administered to any students who have finished the corresponding course work. Additionally, students who will be in grade 11 in spring 2019 and have not yet taken an exam should be administered the exams for inclusion in 2019 accountability calculations. Grade 11 students who have not passed may take the exams again in order to attain proficiency for the 2019 reporting cycle. Ordering materials for the Spring Keystone Exams occurred December 3-7, 2018. If you believe you missed the enrollment window, please contact a DRC PA Customer Service as soon as possible.

Test Setup for the production of precode labels for the Spring Keystone Exams will be available March 15-19, 2019. In order to receive precode labels for the Spring Keystone Exams, paper test sessions must be created in eDIRECT during this window. Student records provided to DRC from PIMS will be available in eDIRECT to assist with the test setup process. Secure materials for the Spring Keystone Exams will arrive by April 29, 2019.

2019 Summer Keystone Exams

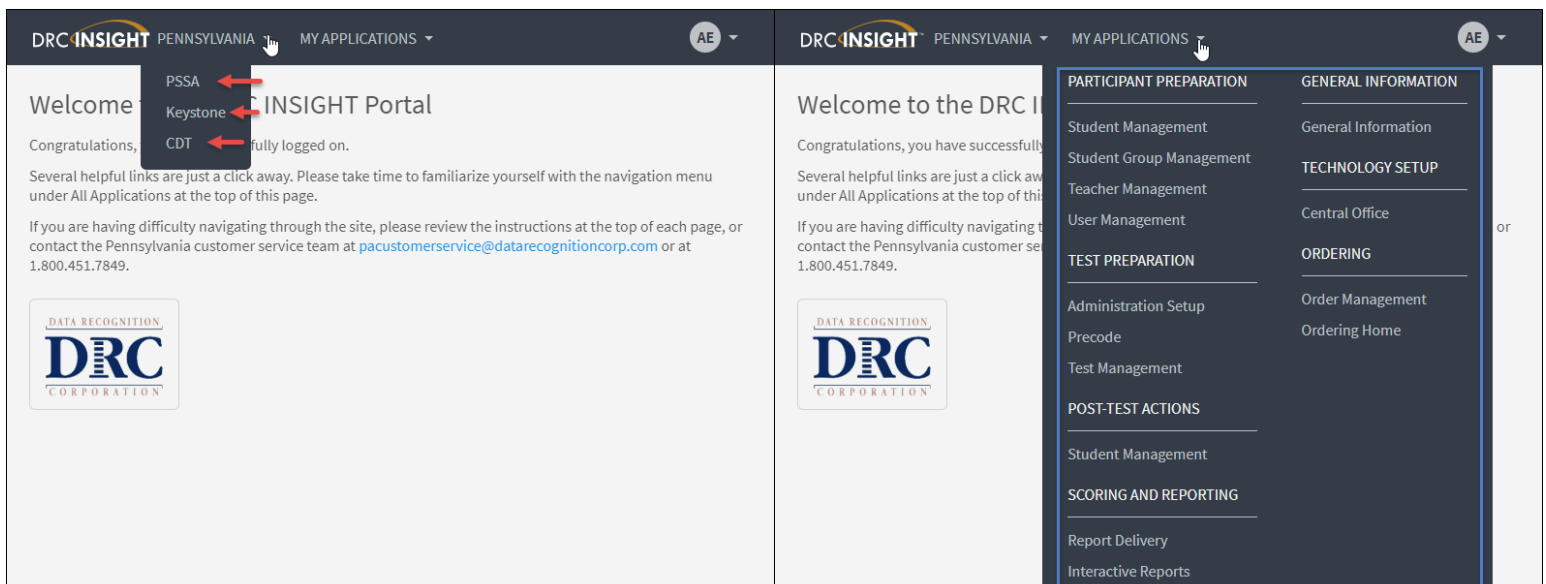
The Summer Keystone Exams Enrollment System will be available April 2-4, 2019, to allow LEA's the opportunity to update contact information and provide projected school-level testing counts used to determine material counts and the delivery locations. The testing window for the Summer Keystone Exams is July 29 - August 2, 2019.

Did You Know?

All manuals, user guides, and PDE guideline documents are posted to DRC eDIRECT in the Documents section.

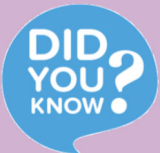
Enhanced eDIRECT Navigation

This summer, the look-and-feel of DRC eDIRECT will be refreshed to create a more responsive and more modern navigation. Current eDIRECT users will retain all permissions and the same documents and resources will be retained in the navigation redesign. Look for an announcement in the coming months for more information and a scheduled release date.



2019 Important Dates

PSSA	
Secure Test Materials Arrive at Districts/Schools	By April 1, 2019
English Language Arts Test Window	April 15–26, 2019
Mathematics, Science, Make-up test Window	April 29–May 3, 2019
Deadline to return materials to DRC for early reporting	May 3, 2019
Early Reporting District Student Data Files Available	May 31, 2019
Deadline to return materials to DRC for regular reporting	May 17, 2019
Grades 3-8 Attributions Window	June 20-26, 2019
Final District Student Data Files Available	June 25, 2019
Spring Keystone	
Paper/Pencil Test Setup Window	March 15–19, 2019
Secure Test Materials Arrive at Districts/Schools	By April 29, 2019
Testing Window	May 13–24, 2019
Deadline for Districts to return materials to DRC	May 30, 2019
Keystone Correction Window	June 27-July 1, 2019
District Student Data Files posted to eDIRECT	July 17, 2019
Summer Keystone	
Enrollment Window	April 2-4 2019
Test Setup Window for Precode Labels	July 1-3, 2019
Testing Window	July 29-August 2, 2019
CDT & CDT Diagnostic Category Tests	
CDT District Data Files Available (full CDT only)	March 11, 2019
CDT District Data Files with On Track Indicators Available (full CDT only)	May 15, 2019
Close of 2018-2019 CDT Testing Window	June 21, 2019
CDT District Data Files Available (full CDT only)	July 3, 2019
Diagnostic Category District Data Files Available	July 3, 2019
2019-2020 Test Setup Opens	August 12, 2019
2019-2020 Testing Window Opens	August 19, 2019



Important dates for all PA assessments can be found in eDIRECT under the Announcements page. This page is updated any time there is a change in any system windows or deliverables.