

Ordering Materials for the 2020 Spring Assessments

Although the school year has just begun, planning is already well underway for the 2020 spring assessments! The first step in a successful administration of the spring tests is providing DRC with accurate enrollment counts and district/school contact information. DRC's enrollment systems for the PSSA and Spring Keystone Exams are your opportunity to ensure that your testing sites receive the right materials and that DRC is communicating with the right district and school personnel.

All District Assessment Coordinators on file in DRC's databases will receive the DRC INSIGHT Portal permissions to access the enrollment system prior to the start of the window. It is the District Assessment Coordinator's responsibility to assign the enrollment-system permissions to any other district or school level users who need to work in the systems.

The enrollment system windows for the 2020 spring assessments are:

- PSSA will be available September 26–October 1, 2019
- Keystone Exams will be available December 4–9, 2019

Continue the Early Reporting Success!

Early Reporting was offered for the first time with the 2019 PSSA, and schools from across the Commonwealth took advantage of the opportunity to receive their results in May by meeting the early-reporting deadlines. We're hoping for even greater participation with the 2020 PSSA.

All answer booklets that are shipped to DRC by the last day of the Mathematics and Science window (May 1, 2020), will be included in the early-reporting release of Student Performance Files on May 29, 2020. Parent Letters will be available June 1 on Data Interaction. Answer booklets returned after May 1, including booklets held through the May 4–8 optional window for math/science and make-ups, will not be included in early reporting. Those student records will be included in a second round of PSSA reporting on June 23, 2020. Student scores from both early reporting and the second round of reporting will be included for all accountability reporting.

To help meet the quick turnaround of math and science answer booklets, PDE is allowing schools to begin administering the Mathematics assessments during the ELA window. The ELA tests must be administered first, but schools do not need to wait until the following week to administer the math tests if their testing schedules support such an approach. Schools do not need special permission from PDE to utilize this testing-window flexibility.

See page 4 for more dates.

Extended Early-Reporting Deadline for Online Testing

Online tests submitted through May 8, 2020, will be included in Early Reporting. The extended deadline is possible because online testing eliminates the processes of transportation, handling, and scanning that are necessary for the paper tests. The May 8 deadline allows schools to utilize the optional make-up window for scheduling online tests, ultimately adding a week of testing beyond the return deadline for paper testing. Schools that face logistical challenges with the return of paper tests by the May 1 deadline are encouraged to consider online testing for specific subjects or student groups to provide additional time to administer the tests and still be included in Early Reporting.

PSSA Early Reporting P.1
CDT Diagnostic Category Tests P.2
Keystone Information P.3
2020 Important Dates P.4

Contact DRC PA Customer Service 1-800-451-7849
Email: PAcustomerservice@datarecognitioncorp.com
DRC INSIGHT Portal: pa.drccdirect.com

Important Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDT) Updates

The release of the 2019-2020 CDTs included some exciting changes meant to increase the usefulness of the tool and the items being tested. The new CDT Diagnostic Category (DC) tests are now available as part of a single CDT administration, both the Full CDT and the DC tests are now utilizing the enhanced Interactive Reporting tool, and the Science tests include new interactive and engaging Technology-Enhanced field-test items.

The Diagnostic Category tests, which include 50 DC-specific tests across math, reading, science, and writing, give schools the option to administer much-shorter tests that isolate specific content targeted to a student's area of need. Combining the DC tests and the Full CDT into one administration eliminates the need for schools to duplicate the tasks associated with the Test Setup process. School staff will be able to pick-and-choose between Full and DC tests within all CDT Test Management functionality of the INSIGHT Portal.

The enhanced Interactive Reporting tool, which was available for the DC tests only in 2018-2019, replaces the standard reporting tool with a platform that provides schools with greater flexibility to work with student and group results. Transitioning the Full CDT to the enhanced tool allows schools to use a common platform for all CDTs. In addition, users now can compare student scores from the previous year with performance for the current year, and users have access to the new Growth and Focus Report to help users pinpoint students for intervention activities.

For all 2019-2020 CDT Science tests, students will have the opportunity to interact with new technology-enhanced field test items. These new and engaging online items are appearing for the first time in Pennsylvania on the Science CDT tests. NOTE: Student performance on the new item types will not affect student scores on the CDT. Schools are encouraged to have their students access the updated Science Online Tools Training (OTT) to allow students to interact with the new item types.

CDT District Data Files

New this year! District users will be able to generate district student data files on-demand through DRC's Interactive Reporting System later this fall. This new functionality will replace the static data files that were posted on the INSIGHT Portal four times per administration and will provide greater flexibility for district-level users who utilize the data and benefit from the most current data.



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

Providing Test Administrator Information

All schools will again be responsible for providing Test Administrator (TA) information for the 2019-2020 assessments on the answer booklets and as part of the Test Setup process within the INSIGHT Portal (eDIRECT). The TA information will be used within research data provided to PDE only and will not be added to any district or public data files or reports.

A grid will be printed on the back page of the answer booklets, and an administrator's initials must be bubbled on each booklet distributed for the PSSA and Keystone Exams.

A test administrator (teacher) name must also be assigned to every test session established in the INSIGHT Portal (both online and paper/pencil administrations). Multiple test administrators can be uploaded to the INSIGHT Portal using the "Teacher Management" functionality. Because the paper/pencil test-session information is not permanent (used to prompt the production of precode labels only), LEAs can assign all paper/pencil test sessions to a single, generic teacher account to complete the setup process more efficiently.

2019-2020 Winter Keystone Exams

Materials Ordering - The Winter Keystone Exams Enrollment System in the DRC INSIGHT Portal was available September 6–12, 2019. During this window, LEAs had the opportunity to update contact information and provide projected school-level counts of students testing for both online and paper/pencil. If your LEA did not enter enrolments and plan to utilize the winter window, you must email pacustomerservice@datarecognitioncorp.com before October 11, 2019.

Precode Labels - In order to receive Student Precode Labels, LEAs that provided paper/pencil enrollment counts will be able to place students into paper test sessions during the October 16–18, 2019, Test Setup window. The creation of paper test sessions identifies the students for whom precode labels are needed for the paper tests. Student records provided to DRC from PIMS will be pre-populated in the Test Setup window; however, the PIMS data does not place students into test sessions. Only LEAs that establish paper test sessions during the Test Setup window will receive Student Precode Labels for the Winter Keystone Exams.

Testing Windows - There are two separate waves for the administration of the Winter Keystone Exams: Wave 1 testing is December 2–13, 2019, and Wave 2 testing is January 6–17, 2020. A district may test all subjects during a single wave or split the subjects between waves, but a single subject cannot be tested during both waves. All schools in a district must follow the same wave selection chosen during the Enrollment System.

Summary Reports and Data Interaction

Summary reports administration provide an overview of how your district and school's performance compares to the overall performance from across the entire Commonwealth. The reports include in-depth results by grade (if applicable), subject, and student group. There is also summary data on achievement by reporting category and assessment anchor, along with tools and resources for finding more information to gain a better understanding of the assessment and instructional priorities. The summary reports are static documents that can be accessed from the Data Interaction (DI) system. The DI system also gives you the option to create dynamic reports that summarize assessment data at a level of detail that increases the usefulness of the information for your district and schools.

2019 PSSA Summary Reports will be available on September 26, 2019. Data and reports for the 2019 Summer Keystone Exams will be available by September 27, 2019.

Live Training Opportunity

PDE is offering live Winter Keystone administration training this November at all three PaTTAN locations. Both PDE and DRC will be presenting material geared toward new assessment coordinators or those who would like a refresher course. The training is scheduled for November 18th (Harrisburg), November 19 (Pittsburgh), and November 26 (PaTTAN East – Valley Forge). You can sign up to attend a session directly on the PaTTAN website (www.pattan.net).

Look for more information in the coming months regarding live training opportunities for the 2020 spring assessments.

Keystone Proficiency from another State's Assessment

PDE policy allows schools to classify a student who was proficient on another state's end-of-course assessment (that is comparable to the Keystone Exams) as Proficient for the corresponding Keystone Exam. This "non-Keystone" proficiency status can be applied to both grade 11 accountability reporting and graduation requirements.

To have a student's non-Keystone proficiency counted for accountability reporting, a school must return a specially-coded answer booklet or online test record for the Keystone subject to which the exemption applies. Schools must contact PDE (Jay Gift) to obtain special coding instructions for the student's answer booklet or online test record. The coded answer booklet or online test record must be submitted during an administration before the end of the student's junior year.

Students who are accurately coded will count as Proficient in the accountability calculations for both performance and participation. If the coding process is not completed, the student will be included in accountability reporting as not participating in the required assessment(s).

2019-2020 Important Dates

Winter Keystone Exams

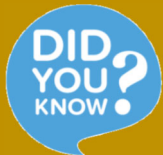
Paper/Pencil Test Setup Window	October 16–18, 2019
Administrative Materials arrive in Districts	By November 4, 2019
Wave 1 Secure Materials arrive in Districts	By November 18, 2019
Wave 1 Testing Window	December 2–13, 2019
Wave 2 Secure Materials arrive in Districts	By December 18, 2019
Wave 2 Testing Window	January 6–17, 2020
Deadline for Districts to return materials to DRC	January 22, 2020
District Student Data Files posted to eDIRECT	March 3, 2020

PSSA

Enrollment Window	September 26–October 1, 2019
English Language Arts Test Window	April 20–24, 2020
Mathematics, Science, Make-up test Window	April 27–May 1, 2020
Deadline for Districts to return materials to DRC for early reports	May 1, 2020
Deadline for Districts to return materials to DRC for regular reports	May 15, 2020
District Student Data Files posted to eDIRECT for early reports	May 29, 2020
District Student Data Files posted to eDIRECT for regular reports	June 23, 2020
District Student Data Files posted to eDIRECT for Accountability reports	August 10, 2020

Spring Keystone Exams

Enrollment Window	December 4–9, 2019
Test Setup Window for Precode Labels	March 16–18, 2020
Testing Window	May 11–22, 2020
District Student Data Files posted to eDIRECT	July 16, 2020



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

Pennsylvania State Test Administration Training (PSTAT)

The 2019-2020 Pennsylvania State Test Administration Training (PSTAT) website will be available starting October 31, 2019. The PSTAT website contains the training and certification modules for District Assessment Coordinators, School Assessment Coordinators, Test Administrators, and Proctors who **must complete** the training prior to the administration of the Pennsylvania Keystone Exams or the Pennsylvania System of School Assessments in the 2019-2020 school year.