



# ASSESSMENT UPDATE

**SPRING 2020**

## Live Training Opportunity

PDE is offering live PSSA administration training this Spring 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 trainings are scheduled for:

February 24, 2020, (Harrisburg),

February 26, 2020, (Pittsburgh), and

March 3, 2020, (PaTTAN East).

You can sign up to attend a session directly on the PaTTAN website ([www.pattan.net](http://www.pattan.net)).

## FYI

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

## Early Reporting Successes

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 Stu-

dent 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 accounta-

bility 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.

## Data Interaction Upgrades

eMetric will be updating the online reporting portal to the latest version of Data Interaction alongside the Winter Keystone Parent Letter release in early March. Some of the new features and enhancements that are included in the upgrade are:

- \* Updated, modern UI with improved accessibility using WCAG 2.0 standards
- \* Responsive design across desktops, tablets, and mobile devices
- \* Introduction of Data Tools, which includes Crosstabs, Summary Statistics, Frequency Distributions, and Scatterplots
- \* Self-service password management
- \* Next-generation firewalls setup in a High Availability configuration to further promote uptime and data security

eMetric trainings on the new look and feel of the Data interaction system will occur via webinars on March 3 and 5, 2020.

District Assessment Coordinators will receive an email with information on how to access the webinars.

**Contact DRC PA Customer Service 1-800-451-7849**  
**Email: [PAcustomerservice@datarecognitioncorp.com](mailto:PAcustomerservice@datarecognitioncorp.com)**  
**DRC INSIGHT Portal: [pa.drccdirect.com](http://pa.drccdirect.com)**

## Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDT) Interactive Reports - Updates

Enhancements and new reporting features were launched on January 20, 2020, for the CDT Interactive Reports. The enhancements and changes are a direct result of the feedback received from the district and school users. A video recording and PDF have been posted to 'Training Resources' found under Quick Links. This video demonstrates all updates made to the Interactive Reports and introduces the Conferencing Report.

Some general enhancements include:

- ◆ Reduced scroll bars on each reporting page
- ◆ Selected pre-filter values will remain available across all reports
- ◆ Initial report data is now focused on most recent test event for the selected Student Group
- ◆ Batch Download available from all report tabs

Additionally, we continue to offer the CDT 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.

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## 2019-2020 Keystone Exams

**The Winter Keystone Exams** District Student Data Files will be released on March 3, 2020, and the Parent Letters will be released on March 9, 2020.

**The Spring Keystone Exams** testing window is May 11-22, 2020, and the Test Setup Window for Precode Labels is March 16–18, 2020. The Spring Keystone Exams should be administered to any students who have finished the corresponding course work. Additionally, students who will be in grade 11 in spring 2020 and have not yet taken an exam should be administered the exams for inclusion in 2020 accountability calculations.

**The Summer Keystone Exams** Enrollment System will be available March 31-April 2, 2020. The testing window for the Summer Keystone Exams is July 27-31, 2020.

***“Two years ago, our district explored online testing with a small group of students. The success of this experience allowed us to expand online assessment to include all students...”***

Ron Hallett  
Warwick SD



## 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.

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## Online Testing Myth

A common question asked about online testing is ***“Do I need to test all my students online?”*** The answer is no, a school can have a mixture of paper and online testers, even at the subject level. For example, a school can administer the online test to a couple of students in one grade for ELA, and all the students in another grade for Mathematics. There are no requirements on the number of students testing online. If you have students who are more computer literate, testing online may be attractive to those students.

## Keystone Composite Scores

In October of 2018, ACT 158 was enacted to establish minimum graduation requirements beginning in the 2021-2022 school year. While there are multiple options in ACT 158 to satisfy graduation requirements, there are two graduation pathways involving the Keystone Exams:

1. Score at least proficient on the Algebra I, Biology, and Literature Keystone Exams.
2. Earn a Keystone Composite score of 4452 or higher on the Algebra I, Biology, and Literature Keystone Exams while also achieving at least a Proficient score on at least one of the three exams and no less than a Basic score on the remaining two.

A composite score will be calculated for students who have received a best score for all three Keystone exams (Algebra I, Biology, Literature), regardless of the performance levels achieved in each subject. The composite score and associated fields will be reported in the Data Interaction™ tool beginning with the 2019-2020 Winter Keystone assessment.

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## 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).

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## Testing Flexibility

In an effort to increase the opportunity for every testing site to benefit from Early Reporting, PDE is granting LEAs the flexibility to set accelerated testing dates within the PDE-approved testing window. This flexibility will allow a site to begin testing Math during the week established for ELA testing; however, the assessments must continue to be administered in order—ELA, Math, and Science.

**Note:** A student's Full Academic Year (FAY) status for ELA and Math/Science will be based on PDE's scheduled testing dates. For example, a student who completes Math during the ELA window, but transfers out of the district before the start of the Math window, will be considered FAY for ELA only at his/her tested school. The student's record for Math will not be FAY at the school to which the student transferred.

LEAs that choose to utilize the testing flexibility do not need to obtain permission from PDE as long as the scheduled dates fall within PDE's approved testing window. Any LEA that decides to follow a flexible test schedule for the 2020 PSSA should contact Craig Weller at [crweller@pa.gov](mailto:crweller@pa.gov) so that an update can be made to the LEA's previously-submitted testing dates.

## English Learners In Their First Year

In 2007, the USDE released guidance on participation of LEP students (ELs) in state assessments. This flexibility allows EL students who have been enrolled in a public school in the United States for fewer than 12 cumulative months (not consecutive) the option of taking the ELA PSSA or Literature Keystone Exam. It is incumbent upon the LEA to determine a student's status. The student will have been enrolled in a US school less than or equal to 12 cumulative months by the end of the current year PSSA ELA/Keystone Literature testing window. However, a student may use the non-participation option only one time. If the student has already used enrollment status to be exempted from the ELA test or the Literature exam during a previous administration, the student must participate. A student's enrollment in a school in Puerto Rico is not to be considered as enrollment in a U.S. school.

All ELs are required to participate in the Mathematics PSSA or Algebra I Keystone exam and the Science PSSA or Biology Keystone exam with accommodations as appropriate regardless of enrollment date.

All ELs, K-12, are required to take the WIDA ACCESS for ELs English Proficiency Test.

# 2020 IMPORTANT DATES

## PSSA

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| Secure Test Materials Arrive at Districts/Schools | By April 6, 2020     |
| English Language Arts Test Window                 | April 20–24, 2020    |
| Mathematics, Science, Make-up test Window         | April 27–May 1, 2020 |
| Deadline to return materials - early reports      | May 1, 2020          |
| Deadline to return materials - regular reports    | May 15, 2020         |
| Student Data Files posted - early reports         | May 29, 2020         |
| Student Data Files posted - regular reports       | June 23, 2020        |
| Grades 3-8 Attributions Window                    | June 19–25, 2020     |
| Grade 11 Attributions Window                      | July 16–20, 2020     |
| Student Data Files - Accountability reports       | August 10, 2020      |

## Spring Keystone

|                                      |                   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Test Setup Window for Precode Labels | March 16–18, 2020 |
| Secure Test Materials Arrive         | By April 27, 2020 |
| Testing Window                       | May 11–22, 2020   |
| Deadline for Districts to return     | June 1, 2020      |
| Keystone Correction Window           | June 26–30, 2020  |
| Student Data Files posted            | July 16, 2020     |

## Summer Keystone

|                                      |                        |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Enrollment Window                    | March 31–April 2, 2020 |
| Test Setup Window for Precode Labels | June 29–July 1, 2020   |
| Testing Window                       | July 27–31, 2020       |

## Classroom Diagnostic Tools

|                                       |               |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Close of the 2019-2020 Testing Window | June 19, 2020 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|

## DRC INSIGHT

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Software Releases | End of June 2020 |
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You can provide your teachers with the opportunity to serve a vital role in the review of test items, scoring procedures, and test data by encouraging them to apply to be assessment committee members! Your teachers' participation in these important aspects of the Pennsylvania assessments helps to ensure wide representation in the committees and provides a more broad understanding of the assessment program within your LEA. Please direct your teachers to the committee-member application (<https://www.cvent.com/d/myq4r5>) on PDE's website for the opportunity to have your LEA represented.