ASSESSMENT UPDATE

pennsylvania DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Desmos Calculator is Here!

The transition to Desmos calculators within the DRC INSIGHT Online Learning System is complete! Desmos has already replaced the previous INSIGHT calculator on the 2022-2023 Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDT), and the same will be true for this year's administrations of the Keystone Exams and PSSA.

Students and educators can familiarize themselves with the Desmos calculators through DRC's Online Tools Training (OTT) available via the DRC INSIGHT Portal and the Pennsylvania-specific practice calculators on the Desmos website (www.desmos.com/testing/pennsylvania). Both are available to provide students an opportunity to interact with the Desmos calculators. Additionally, the OTTs allow students to use the Desmos calculators on the same types of items that will appear on the PSSA, Keystone Exams, or the CDT.

The transition to Desmos is meant to provide a calculator for the online assessments that is aligned with an instructional tool that is commonly used across Pennsylvania. The transition to Desmos is not an indication that PDE is requiring the use of Desmos as a classroom tool. In addition, students may continue to interact with the online assessments using other calculators that fall within PDE's calculator requirements.

Device Support Awareness

An important element of online testing is ensuring that all testing devices are running on the most current version of the device's operating system. This is critical because each updated release of the DRC INSIGHT online testing system is configured to work within the security and functionality features of the newest operating systems.

Most testing devices are configured so that operating systems are updated automatically. As such, there is no additional work for technology staff when an updated version of DRC INSIGHT is released over the summer. However, there can be situations in which a student's testing device can no longer accept operating system updates. In these cases, the vendor/manufacturer considers the devices "obsolete."

Technology staff must closely monitor the support plans for student testing devices to ensure that all devices are able to accept operating system updates. If testing devices are running on "obsolete" operating systems, the device will not be able to deliver the online tests with the needed level of functionality to provide the expected student test experience or the level of security the assessments demand. In such cases, the device cannot be used to deliver the 2022-2023 online assessments.

The DRC INSIGHT system requirements and other documentation related to device support are readily available within the DRC INSIGHT Portal. Technology staff should reference these materials or call DRC Customer Service with any questions about specific testing devices.
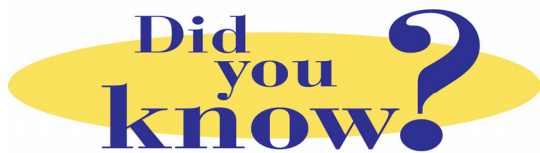
Contact DRC PA Customer Service 1-800-451-7849
Email: PAcustomerservice@datarecognitioncorp.com
DRC INSIGHT Portal: pa.drcedirect.com

Parental Reviews and Online Testing

Chapter 4 regulation states that parents/guardians must review the assessment before making a request to have a student excused because of a religious conflict with the test's content. This is a requirement for both the paper and online administration. Previously, this requirement meant that sites only offering the online test had to request paper booklets to accommodate the parental requests. Those sites were then responsible for receiving, managing, and returning the secure materials.

To eliminate the additional work of managing paper materials, DRC is now offering an option for 100% online sites to receive online test tickets for parental reviews. These test tickets will allow parents/guardians to view the same online test that will be administered across the LEA. The test tickets will be generic and can be used for all parental reviews. LEAs must continue to follow the same security procedures for an online parental review that are required when a parent/guardian is reviewing a paper test.

DRC will not automatically send test tickets to sites that are administering the online test exclusively, nor will DRC stop such sites from requesting paper materials. If your LEA wants to take advantage of this new option, you simply need to send an email to   pacustomerservice@datarecognitioncorp.com requesting online test tickets for parental reviews. The tickets will be provided no earlier than two weeks prior to the testing window.

The PSSA Mixed-Mode accommodation that allows students to respond to multiple choice questions online and open-ended items on paper is available for all subjects.

Online Testing Increases

Online testing continues to expand across the commonwealth! Over 1.7 million online PSSA tests and nearly 600,000 online Keystone Exams were successfully administered across 2021-2022. This is a 3% increase from last year's record-setting participation!

If your LEA has been waiting to offer online testing until statewide participation increases, now is the time for you to start making the transition. The DRC INSIGHT Online Learning System has been successfully delivering online assessments in Pennsylvania since 2010 and is highly valued as an exceptionally reliable and efficient platform to deliver both the diagnostic and the summative assessments.

DRC boasts a wealth of technical, instructional, and practical resources that provide LEAs with all the information needed to evaluate, prepare, and launch a successful online administration. Our customer service staff is prepared to help you whether you're simply looking for a little more information or if you've decided to try online testing this year. Regardless of the number of students or subjects assessed, we are confident that our expertise and first-class system will deliver a positive online testing experience for each of your students.

Winter Keystone Exams

Precode Labels - In order to receive Student Precode Labels for paper testing, LEAs must place students into paper test sessions during the October 17-19, 2022, 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.

Keystone Composite Scores

Pennsylvania recently passed legislation that allows students to receive a composite score for the Keystone Exams if they have scores for two of the exams and a "Coronavirus Exemption" (CE) for the third exam. A CE status was assigned to students who were in a Keystone trigger course in 2019-20 and could not take the corresponding Keystone Exam because the Spring 2020 tests were cancelled. The CE status was initially intended for accountability reporting only; however, the new legislation has now extended the role of the CE status to composite scores (a graduation pathway).

There are now three graduation pathways that involve the Keystone Exams:

1. Score at least proficient on the Algebra I, Biology, and Literature Keystone Exams.

2. Earn a Three-Test 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.

3. Earn a Two-Test Composite score of 2939 or higher with at least one Proficient score and no Below Basic scores on two Keystone Exams and a Coronavirus Exemption for the other.

DRC will begin calculating and reporting both three-test and two-test composite scores for the 2022/2023 Winter Keystone Exams. In addition to the District Student Data Files, the new composite scores will be made available within the Data Interaction system. LEAs will be able to access a student's three-test and two-test (*when applicable*) Keystone composite scores via the Feeder Upload functionality. DRC will notify the field when the new composite scores are available in the Data Interaction system.

Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDT) Updates

The CDT continues to be a vital and growing element of the Pennsylvania assessment program, and more than 300,000 CDT tests have already been administered since the tests launched in late August! The wide array of full-length and Diagnostic Category CDT tests provides students and teachers with valuable progress data, and the system is continually enhanced to improve opportunities for student and educator engagement.

For the third year in a row, the CDT tests are available for remote (at-home) testing. This flexible testing option allows students access to the CDT from a "public" browser without having their personal testing devices configured to the district's Center Office Services network. This option has proven to be especially beneficial for students in online school settings. The DRC INSIGHT Portal contains thorough documentation to guide LEAs and parents/guardians through a successful remote CDT test administration.

DRC has also made improvements to the Interactive Reporting system in response to feedback from the field. Beginning this year, the Standard Error of Measure (SEM) has been added to the Student Conferencing Reports to increase the visibility and understanding of how SEM impacts performance results. In addition, advanced filtering options have been added to the Interactive Reporting system so that educators are able to filter reports by specific demographic categories.

If you have any questions about the CDT or if your LEA is ready to start administering the free diagnostic tests, please contact DRC's Pennsylvania Customer Service team.

Ordering Materials for the 2023 Spring Assessments

The time is here for LEAs to provide DRC with enrollment counts and contact information for the 2023 Spring assessments. Providing DRC with accurate enrollment and contact information is one of the most important steps for a successful administration of the spring tests.

The enrollment system for the PSSA will be pre-populated based on participation in the 2022 administration. **The pre-populated numbers will display the mode that was assessed in 2022 (paper or online).** It is each LEA's responsibility to review and update enrollments to match how the school is planning to test its students.

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 2023 spring assessments are:
- **2023 Spring PSSA will be available October 3-6, 2022**
- **2023 Spring Keystone Exams will be available December 2-7, 2022**

2022-2023 IMPORTANT DATES

2023 PSSA Enrollment Window	October 3 - 6, 2022
Winter Keystone Test Setup Window for Precode Labels	October 17 - 19, 2022
Winter Keystone Testing Dates Collection Window	October 27 - November 2, 2022
Winter Keystone Manuals arrive	By November 2, 2022
Winter Keystone Wave 1 Secure Materials arrive	By November 16, 2022
2023 Spring Keystone Enrollment Window	December 2 - 7, 2022
Winter Keystone Wave 1 Testing Window	December 5 - 16, 2022
Winter Keystone Wave 2 Secure Materials arrive	By December 16, 2022
Winter Keystone Wave 2 Testing Window	January 4 - 18, 2023
Winter Keystone Match to Master Window	February 17 - 21, 2023
Winter Keystone Student Data Files posted	March 6, 2023

Important dates for all PA assessments can be found in the DRC INSIGHT Portal on the Announcements page. This page is updated every time there is a change in a window or deliverable.

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