

Steve Sisolak
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

Rebecca Feiden
Executive Director



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board
FROM: Rebecca Feiden, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Monitoring Academic Performance for 2019-20 and 2020-21 School Years
DATE: October 2, 2020

Background

On March 27, 2020, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) issued a memorandum regarding statewide assessments and the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) school star ratings for the 2019-20 school year. (See Appendix A) Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Nevada students were not required to participate in certain statewide assessments including:

- The Nevada Summative Assessment or Smarter Balanced (SBAC)
- The Nevada Alternate Assessment (NAA)
- The Nevada Science Assessments in grades 5, 8, and high school
- End of Course Exams
- Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment requirements for reading in grades kindergarten through third

In addition, NDE suspended NSPF star ratings for the 2019-20 school year and applied NSPF star ratings from the 2018-2019 school year to the 2019-2020 school year.

Subsequently, on August 6, 2020, NDE issued a memorandum on State and Federal Assessments for the 2020-21 school year. (See Appendix B) This memorandum outlines flexibility in the administration of certain beginning of year assessments including the Brigance Early Childhood Screener and the WIDA Screener, while affirming the requirement for schools to administer the Fall MAP Assessment, Career and Technical Education Exams, the SBAC Assessment, the

NAA, the Nevada Science Assessments, and the ACT, as applicable. End of Course assessments, however, will not be administered for the 2020-21 school year.

Most recently, on September 16, 2020, NDE issued a memorandum reiterating that schools should plan to administer state and federally required assessments in the 2020-21 school year as outlined in the August 6, 2020 memorandum. (See Appendix C) In addition, NDE provided a copy of a letter from the U.S. Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos which makes clear that states should prepare to administer summative assessments for the 2020-21 school year. (See Appendix D) Finally, NDE also provided an overview of the data that would be available in the Nevada Accountability Portal for the 2019-20 school year; these data were released on September 15, 2020. (See Appendix E)

Implications for Fall 2020

Since the SPCSA's Academic Performance Framework is based partially on NSPF Star Ratings, for the 2019-20 school year the SPCSA will not issue ratings. Instead, we will provide schools and the Authority with partially completed Academic Performance Reports based on the data that are available, specifically, demographic data. In addition, the SPCSA can continue to rely on the following information from now through the summer of 2021 when considering applications for Renewal and Amendments of a charter contract:

- Prior year Star Ratings, Statewide Assessments, and other data published by the Nevada Department of Education
- SPCSA Organizational Performance Ratings for the 2019-20 school year
- SPCSA Financial Performance Ratings for the 2019-20 school year
- A school's most recent Site Evaluation
- ACT Assessment data for the 2019-20 school year
- Graduation Rates for the Class of 2019-20 (available December 2020)
- Data published on the Nevada Report Card for the 2019-20 school year
- Other data collected by the Nevada Department of Education for the 2019-20 school year (ex. College and Career Readiness Data)

Implications for Fall 2021

The SPCSA will work with sponsored charters schools and the NDE to prepare to administer assessments during the 2020-21 school year, per the NDE guidance. While we are optimistic that these assessments will go forward, we also believe it prudent to prepare for alternative scenarios given the unprecedented situation that has been created by the COVID-19 pandemic. In the unlikely scenario that new assessment data and/or star ratings are not available in the Fall of 2021, the SPCSA will continue to rely on the most recent data available from the NDE, the most recent Organizational and Financial Performance Ratings issued by the SPCSA, and the most recent Site Evaluation conducted by the SPCSA. In addition, in the event new assessment data and/or star ratings are not available in the Fall of 2021, SPCSA staff suggest that the following information could be considered in addition to NDE and SPCSA data and reports:

- Collecting data from schools on performance of students on any nationally normed assessments that are administered.
- Providing sponsored charter schools seeking amendment and/or renewal with the opportunity to provide the SPCSA with additional data that can be verified by SPCSA staff, such as nationally normed assessments that are administered.

Steve Sisolak
Governor

Jhone M. Ebert
Superintendent of Public
Instruction



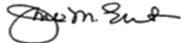
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March 27, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Nevada School District Superintendents;
Nevada School District and Charter School Testing Directors

FROM: Jhone M. Ebert 
Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: ESEA Assessment and Accountability Waiver for the 2019-2020 School Year:
Nevada School Performance Framework and the Identification of Schools for
Support and Improvement

Assessment and Accountability Waivers

On March 20, 2020, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) submitted a request to the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) for a waiver of various requirements related to assessments and accountability. The waiver request was subsequently approved. The USDOE indicated that they intend to issue a formal approval of the NDE waiver request in the coming weeks and that we may begin to implement the waivers while the formal documents are processed. As a result of the approval, the following requirements are waived for the 2019-2020 school year:

- Assessment requirements in section 1111(b)(2): the requirements to administer all required assessments in school year 2019-2020
- Accountability and school identification requirements in section 1111(c)(4) and 1111(d)(2)(C)-(D): the requirements that a state annually meaningfully differentiate all public and charter schools and the requirements to identify schools for comprehensive and targeted support and improvement and additional targeted support and improvement based on data from the 2019-2020 school year.
- Report card provisions related to certain assessments and accountability in section 1111(h) based on data from 2019-2020 school year, specifically:
 - o Section 1111(h)(1)(C)(i): accountability system description
 - o Section 1111(h)(1)(C)(ii): assessment results
 - o Section 1111(h)(1)(C)(iii)(I): other academic indicators
 - o Section 1111(h)(1)(C)(iv): English language proficiency assessment results

- Section 1111(h)(1)(C)(v): school quality or student success indicator results
- Section 1111(h)(1)(C)(vi): progress toward meeting long-term goals and measurements of interim progress
- Section 1111(h)(1)(C)(vii): percentage of students assessed and not assessed
- Section 1111(h)(1)(C)(xi): number and percentage of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities taking an alternate assessment
- Section 1111(h)(2)(C) with respect to all waived requirements in section 1111(h)(1)(C) as well as 1111(h)(2)(C)(i)-(ii): information showing how students in a local educational agency (LEA) and each school respectively, achieved on the academic assessments compared to students in the State and LEA

In summary, Nevada will **not** be required to administer its statewide assessments to all students; make annual accountability determinations; identify schools for support and improvement; nor provide data on State and local report cards regarding assessment and accountability information. The sections below outline the impact of the approved waiver on Nevada’s Assessment System, the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF), and the Identification of Schools for Support and Improvement.

Suspension of State Requirements

Also, on March 20, 2020, Governor Steve Sisolak issued Declaration of Emergency Directive 005 that suspended:

- The requirements to conduct criterion referenced examinations pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes section 390.105 and college and career readiness assessments pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes section 390.610 and all related reporting requirements; as well as
- The requirements to administer end of course exams pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes 390.700 and all accompanying regulations.

Removing these requirements will necessitate adjustments to student grading guidelines by Local Education Agencies (LEA). **Regarding end of course exams, please calculate student grades using their coursework and classroom or school-based assessments from the current school year.**

Nevada’s Assessment System

As a result of the federal accountability waiver, students **will not** be required to participate in the following federally mandated assessments for the 2019-2020 school year¹:

- The Nevada Summative Assessment or Smarter Balanced (SBAC)
- The Nevada Alternate Assessment (NAA)

¹ Due to the approval of the federal waiver, the assessment system for Nevada’s summative assessments has been closed. As a result, Nevada’s summative assessments are no longer available for administration.

- The Nevada Science Assessments in grades 5, 8, and high school

As a result of Emergency Directive 005, students **will not** be required to participate in the following federally mandated assessments for the 2019-2020 school year:

- End of Course Exams
- Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment requirements for reading in grades kindergarten through third

Those students who participated in state assessments before March 16, 2020 will receive student-level reports. These reports will be shipped by Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) to each student's school as in previous years, including roster reports. These reports will only be provided for students who completed any assessment in its totality prior to the March 16, 2020 closure of school buildings.

All secure materials typically returned to assessment vendors must still be returned in alignment with past practice. The deadline to return all DRC materials is Friday, June 5, 2020, however materials may be returned earlier. These materials include all secure NAA materials as well as all braille and large print versions of the SBAC and Science assessments.

Please note that DRC will be adjusting their customer service hours to Monday through Friday from 6:00 am to 2:30 pm PST in order to be available for support.

Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF)

The following is provided to further clarify the impact of the approved federal waiver and Emergency Directive 005 on the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) for the 2019-2020 school year.

- The closure of school buildings due to the COVID-19 pandemic has prevented, or negatively impacted, the ability of Nevada's schools to administer state assessments (Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment, Nevada Alternative Assessment (NAA), and the Nevada Science Assessment) in a manner that ensures reliable data on which to base performance ratings.^{2 3}
- The issuance of star-ratings for Nevada's public and charter schools under the NSPF will be suspended for the 2019-2020 school year. School performance information and star-ratings from the 2018-2019 school will be applied to the 2019-2020 school year. This will be reflected on each school's NSPF report.
- Data from state assessments provide the basis for the Growth and Closing Opportunity Gaps Indicators for Elementary and Middle school ratings. Elementary and Middle Schools without data for the Growth Indicator cannot be rated under the NSPF.

² The assessment window for WIDA, Nevada's assessment to measure English Language Proficiency, occurred during January 6, 2020 – February 28, 2020 for Kindergarten students. The assessment window for students in grades first through twelve occurred during January 21, 2020 – February 28, 2020.

³ The ACT, which serves as Nevada's College and Career Readiness Assessment, was administered as a census exam to all students in grade 11 across the state on February 25, 2020 with a make-up date on March 10, 2020.

- The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) sets certain student attendance requirements for results to be included in the State's system for rating school performance. The emergency closure of school buildings due to the COVID-19 pandemic may impact the reporting of schools' performance on other non-assessment dependent NSPF measures, such as Chronic Absenteeism.
- School ratings under the Alternative Performance Framework (APF) will also be suspended for the 2019-2020 school year due to the lack of available assessment data.

While the new school ratings on the NSPF will be suspended for the 2019-2020 school year, NDE will make every attempt to continue reporting available data on the Nevada Report Card in accordance with Federal and State reporting requirements. This will include, but is not limited to, available student data, State information, achievement data, personnel, safety, fiscal, graduation rates, and civil rights data collections.

Identification of Schools for Support and Improvement (CSI, TSI, and ATSI)

In the absence of the data required to determine school ratings for the 2019-2020 school year, the identification of schools for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI/ATSI) will also be suspended for the 2019-2020 school year. As a requirement of the federal waiver approval, any school that is identified for comprehensive or targeted support and improvement or additional targeted support and improvement in the 2019-2020 school year will maintain that identification status in the 2020-2021 school year and continue to receive supports and interventions consistent with the school's support and improvement plan in the 2020-2021 school year.

The Nevada Department of Education will continue to work collaboratively with LEAs to further evaluate and communicate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and related school building closures on federal, state, and local reporting requirements. NDE's goal is to implement the waiver requirements effectively while continuing to provide relevant data across the State and districts to support student growth.

For questions related to assessment or the NSPF, please contact Peter Zutz, Director of the Office of Assessment, Data, and Accountability Management at pzutz@doe.nv.gov.

For questions related to the identification of schools for support and improvement, please contact Dr. Seng-Dao Keo at skeo@doe.nv.gov.

cc: Dr. Jonathan Moore, Deputy Superintendent of Student Achievement
Dr. Seng-Dao Keo, Director of the Office of Student and School Supports
Peter Zutz, Director of the Office of Assessment, Data, and Accountability Management

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All District Superintendents
State Public Charter School Authority
All Test Directors

FROM: Jhone M. Ebert, Superintendent of Public Instruction

DATE: August 6, 2020

SUBJECT: School Year 2020-21 State and Federal Assessments

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jhone M. Ebert".

The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) is committed to supporting schools by offering flexibility in the administration of assessments as we continue to respond to and recover from COVID-19. As we prepare to reopen school buildings, the top priority is the safety and social-emotional wellbeing of students and school staff. To that end, assessments should be administered when it is safe and appropriate to do so.

Please be aware that potential changes in administration procedures may be necessary to ensure the safety of students and staff and to ensure the validity and reliability of the Nevada assessments. As of the writing of this memo, we have not received any indication from the U.S. Department of Education of whether accountability and assessment waivers will be offered for the 2020-21 school year. NDE will continue to provide updated information regarding State and federal assessments as warranted by any change in conditions. We appreciate your patience and flexibility during these trying times.

Early Childhood Screening

Generally, the Brigance Early Childhood Screen III diagnostic has one testing window for children entering Kindergarten in the fall and two testing windows for Pre-K, one during the fall and one in the spring. NDE will be expanding the fall administration window from 30 to 45 days. For the 2020-21 school year:

- In the fall, students must be assessed no earlier than 15 calendar days prior to the start of school or within 45 instructional days of the start of the school year.
- In the spring, students must be assessed within the last 30 instructional days or upon student exit.
- If students enroll midyear, they should be assessed no earlier than 15 calendar days prior

to the start of school or within 45 instructional days of their enrollment. The Brigance cannot be administered online. Therefore, the Brigance Early Childhood Screen III is waived for students who are enrolled in distance learning full-time at the start of the 2020-21 school year.

English Learner Identification and Assessments

Guidance was previously issued regarding the identification of English Learners per the *COVID-19 and English Learners Provisional Identification Amendment* issued June 29, 2020. The amendment addressed the Kindergarten W-APT and **WIDA Screener** for grades 1-12 (which must be administered in person and one-on-one for Kindergarten students) as follows:

“As LEAs typically have few contracted staff during the month of July, NDE hereby provides LEAs and SPCSA charter schools the flexibility to use the results of the Home Language Survey (HLS) without conducting a student and parent/guardian interview to temporarily designate a student as a provisional English learner. This flexibility will be effective for the period starting July 1, 2020 through the date of school reopening for the 2020–2021 school year.

When regular schooling resumes, LEAs will be required to administer the approved WIDA English language proficiency screeners to students who were identified as provisional English learners to determine if the student qualifies as an English learner. NDE recognizes that some LEAs may face challenges in administering numerous WIDA screeners with limited staff and facility capacity in a short period of time. NDE encourages LEAs and SPCSA charter schools to begin the formal assessment of provisional English learners during Phase 2, summer school/program reopening or in the interim summer period of school closure in accordance with their approved school re-opening plan and CDC guidelines.”

The English Language Proficiency Assessment or **WIDA** will be administered to students in Kindergarten through 12 grades during the established testing windows:

- Kindergarten: January 4 – February 26
- 1st – 12th grades: January 19 – February 26

Other Assessments

The **Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Growth Reading** assessment will be administered in the following assessment windows during the Fall, Winter, and Spring:

- Fall: August 17 – October 29
- Winter: November 16 – February 19
- Spring: March 8 – May 28

The administration windows for MAP are generous enough to support districts and schools in meeting the requirements of Nevada Revised Statutes 388.157 and the assessment can be administered online and remotely in a distance education environment. As a reference, this [link](#) corresponds to NWEA’s recommendations for district and school administration of the MAP Growth Reading assessment in a remote setting.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) exams will have three testing windows:

- Fall Testing: September 21 – October 16

- Winter Testing: October 26 – November 20
 - Retake: December 7 – December 18
- Spring Testing: February 16 – March 26
 - Retake: April 12 – April 30

Federally mandated assessments, including the **Smarter Balanced** Summative assessment of mathematics and English Language Arts in grades 3-8, the **Nevada Science Assessments** in grades 5, 8, and high school, and the **Nevada Alternate Assessment (NAA)** in grades 3-8 and 11 will be administered during the following testing windows:

- Smarter Balanced: February 18 – May 19
- Nevada Science: February 18 – May 19
- Nevada Alternate Assessment (NAA): February 18 – May 19

The **ACT** will be administered to 11th grade students as in previous years:

- ACT: Paper/Pencil: February 23
 - Make-up: March 9
- Accommodated Versions: February 23-26, March 1-5
 - Accommodated Make-up: March 9-12, March 15-19
- ACT Online: February 23-25, March 2-4
 - Online Make-up: March 9-11, March 16-18

End of Course assessments will *not* be administered in the 2020-21 school year, in accordance with budget reductions approved during the Nevada Legislature’s 31st (2020) Special Session.

In closing, the entire Nevada Department of Education cannot thank each of you enough for the support you provide, each and every day, to Nevada’s students, educators, staff, and families. We appreciate your unwavering dedication.

Attachment(s): Accountability and Assessment Calendar for SY2020-21

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Jhone M. Ebert
Superintendent of
Public Instruction



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TO: All School District Superintendents
State Public Charter School Authority
All District and Charter School Principals

FROM: Jhone M. Ebert, Superintendent of Public Instruction

DATE: September 16, 2020

SUBJECT: Federal Accountability and Assessments

Introduction

Prior to the start of the 2020-21 school year, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) issued a [memorandum regarding assessments](#). The memo dated August 6, 2020 indicated that the top priority of NDE is the safety and social-emotional wellbeing of students and school staff and that assessments should be administered when it is safe and appropriate to do so. To ensure flexibility for districts and schools amidst a challenging reopening, the memo extended some assessment windows and provided exemptions from certain assessments for students in a full-time distance learning environment.

The memo also stated that NDE had not yet received any indication from the U.S. Department of Education (USED) whether accountability and assessment waivers would be offered for the 2020-21 school year. USED Secretary Betsy DeVos has since sent a letter to all chief state school officers regarding federal accountability and assessments for the 2020-21 school year. The letter, which is attached for your reference, communicates the “expectation that states will, in the interest of students, administer summative assessments during the 2020-21 school year, consistent with the requirements of the law and following the guidance of local health officials.” The letter clearly affirms that states should *not* anticipate accountability and assessment waivers being granted this school year.

2019-20 School Year

During the 2019-20 school year, [USED approved](#) the Nevada Department of Education’s request for a waiver from a number of requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), including:

- Administering assessments;
- Accountability and school identification; and
- Report card provisions related to certain assessments and accountability.

In accordance with the waiver granted by USED, Governor Sisolak’s Declaration of [Emergency Directive 005](#) suspended the requirements to conduct criterion referenced examinations pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) section 390.105 and college and career readiness assessments pursuant to NRS 390.610 and all related reporting requirements. Additional information regarding the effects of the waiver approval are covered in the [assessment and accountability memorandum](#) issued by the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) on March 27, 2020.

Regarding State assessment requirements, Emergency Directive 005 further suspended the requirements to administer End of Course exams pursuant to NRS 390.700, and Emergency Directive 014 delegated the Superintendent of Public Instruction the power to temporarily waive or suspend those provisions of NRS and the Nevada Administrative Code that placed an undue burden on a student's ability to graduate from high school. NDE [Guidance Memorandum #20-01](#) provided that all students within the graduating class of 2020 would no longer be required to participate in a civics assessment as a condition for graduation.

Due to the approved federal waiver and State policy suspensions per the Governor's Emergency Directives, NDE issued an overview of the resulting changes to this fall's Nevada Report Card release, attached to this memo.

2020-21 School Year

NDE's memo issued August 6, 2020 provided flexibility for districts and schools by extending some assessment windows and providing exemptions from certain assessments for students in a full-time distance learning environment during the 2020-21 school year. In addition, the August 6 memo confirmed that End of Course assessments will *not* be administered in the 2020-21 school year, in accordance with budget reductions approved during the Nevada Legislature's 31st (2020) Special Session.

In follow-up to the latest communication from USED, NDE will work in close coordination with districts and schools to meaningfully assess student performance during the 2020-21 school year.

Despite the challenging circumstances created by COVID-19, NDE recognizes that assessments are a critical tool in the promotion of equity that help us understand how we are meeting all students' needs and supporting their growth and success. Accountability measures have benefits that include:

- Empowering stakeholders to become decision makers because they have statewide data available to them;
- Driving continuous improvement through alignment to student achievement goals; and
- Identifying opportunities for stakeholders to engage in conversations around student outcomes and school improvement.

As school districts and charter schools plan for the administration of assessments, NDE will continue to provide support including standards-aligned instructional resources and professional development, such as the resources made available through the [Nevada Digital Learning Collaborative \(NvDLC\)](#) and Discovery Education.

For additional questions related to statewide assessments and accountability, please contact adaminfo@doe.nv.gov.

Attachments: Secretary DeVos Letter to Chief State School Officers
Nevada Accountability Portal September 15, 2020 Overview



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

September 3, 2020

Dear Chief State School Officer:

During the past several months, we have experienced unprecedented challenges across this nation, and I thank you for your efforts to meet the needs of all your students and safely reopen America's schools. I've benefited from talking with each of you as this pandemic has gone on, and please know that your ideas, contributions, and suggestions have all been put to good use. As we look ahead, I want you to know my perspective on the importance of assessing student performance.

Research shows that school closures this past spring disproportionately affected the most vulnerable students, widening disparities in achievement for low-income students, minority students, and students with disabilities.¹ Almost every student experienced some level of disruption. Moving forward, meeting the needs of all students will require tremendous effort. To be successful, we must use data to guide our decision-making.

Several of your colleagues recently inquired about the possibility of waivers to relieve states of the requirement to administer standardized tests during School Year (SY) 2020-2021. You will recall that, within a very short time, waivers were granted to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Bureau of Indian Education this past spring following the declaration of a national emergency. That was the right call, given the limited information available about the virus at the time and the need to stop its spread, as well as the practical realities limiting the administration of assessments. However, it is now our expectation that states will, in the interest of students, administer summative assessments during the 2020-2021 school year, consistent with the requirements of the law and following the guidance of local health officials. As a result, you should not anticipate such waivers being granted again.

As you'll recall, statewide assessments are at the very core of the bipartisan agreement that forged ESSA. They are among the most reliable tools available to help us understand how children are performing in school. The data from assessments can help inform personalized support to children based on their individual needs and provide transparency about their progress. There is broad and consistent support for assessments because there is general agreement among the public that a student's achievement should be measured, that parents deserve to know how their children are performing, and that it should be no secret how a school's performance as a whole compares to other schools.²

¹Dorn, Hancock, Sarakatsannis, Viruleg. "COVID-19 and student learning in the United States: The hurt could last a lifetime". McKinsey & Company. June 1, 2020 <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/public-and-social-sector/our-insights/covid-19-and-student-learning-in-the-united-states-the-hurt-could-last-a-lifetime>

² Gallup, NWEA. "Make Assessment Work for All Students: Multiple Measures Matter". May 2016 https://www.nwea.org/content/uploads/2016/05/Make_Assessment_Work_for_All_Students_2016.pdf

Organizations to which many of you belong, including the Council of Chief State School Officers and Chiefs for Change, researchers, and advocates have all recently expressed support for administering assessments during the upcoming school year. A letter signed by a bipartisan coalition, including the Center for American Progress, the Education Trust, the Foundation for Excellence in Education, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, among others, clearly noted:

The challenges posed by this crisis only underscore the value of collecting and reporting on a standard measure of student performance. Leaders should not have to continue to steer recovery efforts in the dark, and families and communities should be able to access the information they deserve about how schools are serving all students.³

Parents agree. A recent survey conducted by the Data Quality Campaign showed that nearly 90 percent of parents want information about how school closures affect students.⁴ Additionally, 77 percent of parents agree that states should resume administration of statewide summative assessments in math and reading in 2021 to better understand how well schools and students are meeting academic standards in the wake of the pandemic.⁵

I understand that presently it might be difficult to imagine the administration of statewide assessments in the same manner as they have been administered in the past. In fact, it may be that the assessments will look different. I am reminded of the old saying: necessity is the mother of invention. Now may be the perfect time for you to rethink assessment in your state, including considering competency and mastery-based assessments, to better gauge the learning and academic growth of your students

My staff and I are prepared to work with you to help ensure every state can meaningfully assess student performance during SY 2020-2021, including providing technical assistance and identifying and sharing best practices among states. We are open to discussions about what, if any, actions may be needed to adjust how the results of assessments are used in your state's school accountability determinations.

Make no mistake. If we fail to assess students, it will have a lasting effect for years to come. Not only will vulnerable students fall behind, but we will be abandoning the important, bipartisan reforms of the past two decades at a critical moment. Opponents of reform, like labor unions, have already begun to call for the permanent elimination of testing. If they succeed in eliminating assessments, transparency and accountability will soon follow.

In closing, let's remember that Americans are resourceful people and can accomplish great things even during the most challenging of times. Just as doctors, nurses, police officers, grocery clerks, and other essential workers have demonstrated their resolve, now is our opportunity to show that the same spirit is present in America's education leaders as we work to safely reopen schools and to successfully educate our nation's children.

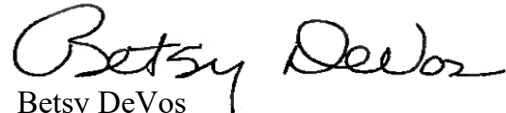
³Alliance for Excellent Education, Center for American Progress, Collaborative for Student Success, Data Quality Campaign, Foundation for Excellence in Education, National Urban League, Education Trust, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, UnidosUS, *et al.*, to Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, July 31, 2020. https://dataqualitycampaign.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Assessment-Coalition-Letter-to-ED_7.30.20.pdf

⁴Data Quality Campaign, "National Poll Finds Parents and Teachers Want More Data and Better Support to Use It Effectively to Help Students during COVID-19", June 24, 2020. <https://dataqualitycampaign.org/news/national-poll-finds-parents-and-teachers-want-more-data-and-better-support-to-use-it-effectively-to-help-students-during-covid-19/>

⁵*Ibid.*

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Office of School Support and Accountability by e-mail at OESE.TitleI-A@ed.gov. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Betsy DeVos

Nevada Accountability Portal 2019-2020

OVERVIEW of the September 15, 2020 Release

September 1, 2020

This summary outlines the 2019-2020 Nevada Report Card information that schools, districts, parents and community members need to know.

Need to Know

The Nevada Accountability Portal, www.nevadareportcard.nv.gov, is a single source for information about public schools and school districts across Nevada. In compliance with the collection of the data required by both federal and state law, the Nevada Accountability Portal provides state, district and school related accountability data for school years going back to 2003. The portal consists of the following reporting platforms:

- Nevada Report Card (Annual Reports of Accountability)
- Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF)
- Nevada Growth Model



What's Not Available for September 15, 2020 Report Card Release

In accordance with the Governor's Emergency Directive 005 on the closure of public-school buildings and the U.S. Department of Education's ESEA waiver to suspend accountability requirements in response to the COVID 19 pandemic, the accountability data/metrics outlined below will not be available on the 2020 Report Card. Additionally, the accountability data/metrics that can be reported may be adjusted due to the early closure of school facilities.

Data/Metrics **NOT** available on the 2020 Report Card

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chronic Absenteeism ▪ School Identification ▪ Academic Indicators ▪ School quality/student success indicator results ▪ Progress toward meeting long term goals and measurements of interim progress ▪ Information showing student achievement in a local educational agency (LEA) and each school, respectively, on the academic assessments compared to students in the State and the LEA. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NSPF school star ratings ▪ CRT (Smarter Balanced) results ▪ NAA results ▪ ACT results ▪ ELPA (WIDA) results ▪ Science results ▪ Percentage of students assessed and not assessed ▪ Number and percentage of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities taking an alternate assessment |
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What's New for the September 15, 2020 Report Card Release

- Per Pupil Expenditures of federal, state, and local funds, including actual personnel expenditures and actual non-personnel expenditures of federal, State and local funds disaggregated by source of funds, for each LEA and each school in the State for the preceding fiscal year.
- Professional Qualifications of Educators including the number and percentage of inexperienced teachers, principals, and other school leaders, teachers teaching with emergency or provisional credentials, teachers who are not teaching in the subject of field for which the teacher is certified or licensed.
- Disaggregated Discipline Data per 2019 Nevada State Legislation.



Reminders

- **Release/Update Dates:** The Nevada Accountability Portal is updated annually. Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) is mandated to be published no later than September 15 of each year, whereas the Nevada Report Card data elements are mandated to be published no later than December 31.
 - September 15, 2020 for the majority of the data
 - December 15, 2020 for the adjusted cohort graduation rates (ACGR), civil rights data collection (CRDC), and any other data that is not available by September 15
- **Portal Help/FAQ section:** Informative manuals, in-depth explanations for the most common questions and an alphabetical list of abbreviations used in the portal can be found in the “Help” section of the portal website.



Deeper Dive

- **NSPF Reports:** In accordance with the U.S. Department of Education ESEA waiver to suspend accountability requirements in response to the COVID 19 pandemic, NSPF school ratings, NSPF school Designations (CSI, TSI, TSI/ATSI) and accountability indicators will be carried over from the 2018-2019 reporting year. State and District information that can be reported for the current reporting year such as student enrollment, graduation rates, etc. will be updated on the portal. For the most recent NSPF school rating reports please select the 2018-2019 reporting year.
- **Downloadable School Level Per Pupil Expenditure Financial Reports:** These downloadable PDF reports are designed to help the parents, community members and stakeholders explore what is spent on students in every school across Nevada.
- **School Comparison Tool:** The school comparison tool provides users with the ability to search for schools in Nevada based upon criteria such as school level, school type, star rating, enrollment, performance results, graduation rates, and more. This tool gives the user the ability to compare schools’ key accountability data.



Visit the Nevada Accountability Portal, www.nevadareportcard.nv.gov, for your data needs or contact adaminfo@doe.nv.gov

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with links for State, Districts & Schools, and Help. Below the navigation bar is a banner image of four diverse children smiling. The main content area features a search form with three sections: 'I want to see State Data', 'I want to see District or School Data', and 'I want to Compare Schools'. The 'District or School Data' section includes a year dropdown (2018-2019), a search input field, and dropdown menus for District (Achievement) and School (All Schools). A 'Go' button is located below the search fields.