



CHRISTY JUNKINS
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MEMORANDUM

TO: School Leaders and School Testing Coordinators
FROM: Christy Junkins, Executive Director of School Support
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2020

Re: U.S. Department of Education Approves South Carolina Assessment Suspension Waiver & Other Assessment Updates

Dear School Leaders and School Testing Coordinators,

State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman and the S.C. Department of Education (SCDE) have received notice that the U.S. Department of Education has approved the agency's assessment and accountability suspension waiver that was submitted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the Spring 2020, South Carolina will **not** administer any of the following assessment programs:

- SC READY (English language arts and mathematics in grades 3-8);
- SC PASS (science in grades 4 and 6);
- End-of-Course Examination Program (English, Algebra, Biology, United States History and the Constitution) the requirement that these examinations count 20 percent has been waived;
- Prekindergarten assessments; and
- Alternate Assessments

The SCDE is working closely with the vendors of college entrance, college credit, and workforce readiness assessments to explore innovative approaches, such as testing online. To the extent possible, districts may administer these assessments to students who may need them for post-secondary or employment aspirations. These assessments include Advanced Placement, SAT, ACT, and WIN Ready to Work. Should these assessments be able to be administered, they will continue to be paid for by the state.

Currently, the College Board plans to offer AP Exams virtually. This year's AP Exams will not include questions from the final units of the course- units typically covered in March and April. In addition, the streamlined Exams will take no longer than an hour and will be doable on a mobile phone. By April 3, College Board will publish the full exam schedule including the specific free-response question types that will comprise each AP Exam. The exams will be "open Book." Updates can be found at <https://pages.collegeboard.org/collegeboard-covid-19-updates>.

WIDA Screener has not been suspended. Please work with your English Language Learner Coordinator as needed to ensure all requirements are being met for the students in a safe and healthy manner during this pandemic.

As new information becomes available, notifications will be sent. Please let me know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns as we continue to be #ErskineStrong and healthy.

Sincerely,

Christy Junkins