



# COVID-19 Impact of U.S. Department of Education Waiver on 2019 - 2020 Assessment Programs

April 27, 2020

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The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) applied for a waiver from the U. S. Department of Education (USED) for assessment, accountability, and certain reporting provisions in the School Report Card. Formal approval of the waiver was received which impacts Kentucky's assessment programs for the 2019-2020 school year.

Kentucky's state required assessment programs were in various stages of implementation. Most actions to be completed by District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) and Building Assessment Coordinators (BACs) are halted completely (i.e. receiving and distributing materials for K-PREP and Alternate K-PREP). However, a few activities need to be finalized for assessments that had been administered (i.e. ACT, ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS).

The sections below describe the current status and activities to be completed for each assessment program. Information updates will be provided in the [Monday and Special DAC Emails](#).

## ACT

**Current Status:** ACT testing was accomplished for most Kentucky schools on Tuesday, March 10. However, some students were unable to complete testing. To ensure students who missed their opportunity to take a state administration of the ACT this spring due to school closures as a result of COVID-19, KDE is offering a fall testing option. Please note that this fall administration option is available for current juniors who did not participate in the Spring 2020 testing windows. It is not an opportunity for students to retest.

As data from the initial test date this spring is finalized, KDE and ACT will continue working to identify students who did not test. We will reach out to District Assessment Coordinators to assist with the identification.

As additional information and training opportunities are solidified, ACT and KDE will communicate important details.

For districts and schools that were not able to test on March 10. The tentative initial and makeup dates are,

### Initial Testing Window

The ACT Standard Time Initial Test Date – Sept. 22

The ACT Accommodations Testing Window-Sept. 22, 23, 24, 25 and 28, 29, 30, Oct. 1 and 2

### Makeup Testing Window

The ACT Standard Time Test Date – Oct. 6

The ACT Accommodations Testing Window – Oct. 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12



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---

There will be no online testing option.

### For Schools that Tested on March 10

If schools were able to administer the statewide ACT, March 10 was the school's initial ACT test date. Only one additional date is needed for make-up testing. The school's initial test date was March 10 and the make-up date is tentatively Sept. 22.

If schools were unable to test on March 10, please contact [Shara Savage](#).

**Tasks to be Completed by DACs/BACs:** Please read Monday DAC Emails and Special DAC Emails for additional details and updates.

### ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS

**Current Status:** The 2019-2020 ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs testing window is complete. The ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs pre-data validation is complete in WIDA Assessment Management System (WIDA AMS). Districts will receive reports and data files online in WIDA AMS starting Apr. 24. More information will be sent out about paper copies of the reports being sent to districts closer to May.

**Tasks to be Completed by DACs/BACs:** There are no ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs tasks to be completed at this time. There will be in the future when reports are available online if there are any changes.

### End-of-Course (EOC)

**Current Status:** On Friday, April 3, 2020, the end-of-course (EOC) requirements to the Early Graduation Program were suspended as a result of a waiver issued by Lt. Governor Coleman. The waiver indicated as follows: "Therefore, pursuant to EO 2020-243, KRS 158.142(3)(a) is hereby temporarily suspended for current high school juniors who indicated their intent to participate in the early high school graduation program prior to January 1, 2020, and who otherwise meet all requirements as set forth in KRS 158.142 and applicable administrative regulations for graduation at the conclusion of the 2019-20 school year."

Current juniors in the Early Graduate Program who obtain a qualifying benchmark score on the ACT and who meet all other requirements will remain eligible for early graduation. The emergency school closures should not prevent juniors participating in the early high school graduation program from completing the program and qualifying for an Early Graduation Scholarship Certificate.



## COVID-19 Impact of U.S. Department of Education Waiver on 2019 - 2020 Assessment Programs

*April 27, 2020*

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Districts with current freshman or sophomores participating in the Early Graduation Program expecting to graduate this spring should contact [Shara Savage](#) for guidance.

**Tasks to be Completed by DACs/BACs:** Please read Monday DAC Emails and Special DAC Emails for additional details and updates.

### Kindergarten Screen

**Current Status:** The common Kentucky Kindergarten Screen (K Screen) for the 2019-2020 school year is complete. At this time, no testing waiver is required. The district K Screen contact should order materials and determine the screening window for the 2020-2021 school year. The materials will be shipped on schedule and required trainings will be offered virtually; however, announcements and updates will be communicated through K Screen Updates.

**Tasks to be Completed by DACs/BACs:** Inventory/order materials unless that responsibility has been assigned to the K-screen Contact(s).

### K-PREP and Alternate K-PREP

**Current Status:** The state-required summative assessment, commonly known as the Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress (K-PREP), has been halted for the 2019-2020 school year. The USED approved a waiver for Kentucky to bypass standardized testing for the 2019-2020 school year. K-PREP testing, an integral part of Kentucky's overall accountability system, is used to measure how well students perform to Kentucky Academic Standards. The K-PREP administration will resume in spring 2021.

This also includes the Alternate K-PREP Window 2 assessment, field test and Quality of School Climate and Safety survey. The Alternate Assessment and Accountability Folder (AAAF) and the Career Readiness Alternate Assessment Folder (CRAAF) requirements will also be suspended for spring 2020.

**Tasks to be Completed by DACs/BACs:** The Office of Assessment and Accountability (OAA) will continue to provide frequent resources and services to DACs and BACs as we move forward into preparations for future assessments. OAA will continue to work closely with our testing vendors seeking input, offering trainings and materials as we move forward. There are no K-PREP tasks needing completion at the present time.



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## Student Data Review and Roster (SDRR) Application

**Current Status:** Districts will no longer be required to submit any non-participation requests for the ACT rosters in the SDRR application as of Mar. 23.

**Tasks to be Completed:** There are no SDRR tasks to be completed at this time. OAA staff will close any open tickets, and no action is needed by school or district staff to resolve these.

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