



Public Schools of North Carolina

Testing Update 2020–21 School Year

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Introduction

- Schools are returning on either Plan B or Plan C
- As of today, there is not a waiver from statewide testing or accountability for the 2020–21 school year
- The waiver from 2019–20 expired with the beginning of a new school year (July 7)



Testing

- Informs parents, teachers, and school leaders of students' understanding of grade level content standards

Accountability

- Provides information on school performance on multiple indicators such as performance on tests, growth, English learners, etc.

Current Testing Windows

- Beginning-of-Grade 3 (BOG3) Test
 - Testing window is first 20 days of school year
- End-of-Course Tests (EOCs)
 - Testing begins in December for fall semester
 - Last 5/10 days of school semester/year
- End-of-Grade Tests (EOGs)
 - Last 5/10 days of school year



Testing

- Recommendation
 - If students are remote, the tests (BOG3, EOC, or EOG) are administered when the students return to school or
 - As a local decision, public school units may arrange for students to take the tests at a school sanctioned site that meets the Department of Health and Human Services requirements



Testing

- Recommendation
 - For the 2020–21 school year, facilitate discussions to amend the state law so the required testing window for EOC tests and EOG tests is broader than the currently cited last five days of the semester or last 10 days of the school year



Accountability

- Recommendation
 - For the 2020–21 school year, review and analyze all data for appropriate use in any accountability report, including School Performance Grades and growth
 - Any waiver from accountability, or a waiver from statewide testing, would have to be given by the U.S. Department of Education and the North Carolina General Assembly



Possible Use of Spring 2020 EOGs

- Provide an EOG test (grades 4–8 reading and mathematics) and NC Math 1, and NC Math 2 for public school units to **voluntarily** administer at the beginning of the school year
 - Provide academic achievement level for each student to inform parents, teachers and school leaders of students' achievement on the **previous** grade level content standards



Possible Use of Spring 2020 EOGs

- Available for administration at a school-sanctioned site and at home (remote learning)
 - Growth analysis use is dependent on administration site

At school sanctioned sites and at-home (remote)	Student-level projections for spring 2021 EOG performance (used by teachers and school leaders to plan instruction)
At school sanctioned sites	Included in previous test scores for accountability growth analysis at the end of the 2020–21 school year

- Growth analysis may be dependent on span of testing window