



ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

Learn. Discover. Thrive.

September 4, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The READY Accountability Model (adopted in 2012-2013) acknowledges that we owe every child an education that properly prepares him or her for their next big steps after graduation – college, career, and adulthood. The North Carolina Department of Public Education Accountability Services Division is committed to evaluating how students are learning and where we must make improvement based on performance indicators, progress indicators, and growth indicators.

North Carolina Testing Program

The following tests will be given during the 2018-2019 school year. It is required that all students in Asheville City Schools participate in the state testing program.

Elementary and Middle School Grades 3-8

- All Kindergarten through 3rd grade students' basic reading skills are assessed using mClass: Reading 3D three times throughout the school year.
- Students at grade 3 take the Beginning-of-Grade 3 English Language Arts/Reading Test between the 11th and the 15th day of the school year.
- Students at grades 3, 4, 6, and 7 take End-of-Grade tests in English Language Arts/Reading and Mathematics during the last 10 days of the school year.
- Students at grades 5 and 8 take End-of-Grade tests in English Language Arts/Reading, Mathematics, and Science during the last 10 days of the school year.
- Students who are enrolled in courses where North Carolina Final Exams are required shall take the appropriate NC Final Exam.
- All students identified as limited English proficient must be annually assessed to determine progress and level of English language proficiency.

High School Grades 9-12

- Students who are enrolled for credit in courses where End-of-Course tests and North Carolina Final Exams are required shall take the appropriate End-of-Course test and NC Final Exam.
- End-of-Course tests and NC Final Exams are given during the last 5 days of the instructional period for 4X4/semester courses or the last 10 days of the instructional period for traditional/yearlong courses.
- Students at grade 10 take the PreACT (curriculum-based educational assessment that measures achievement in English, Math, Reading, and Science) in October.
- Students in grade 11 take the ACT (college admission and placement test evaluating learning in English, Mathematics, Reading, Science, and Writing) in February.
- Students at grade 12 who are identified as Career and Technical Education concentrators are required to take the WorkKeys assessments.
- For 2018-19, End-of-Course tests are available for the following subjects: NC Math 1, Biology, and English II.

- Per State Board of Education policy, schools are to use results from all End-of-Course, Career and Technical Education State Assessments, NC Final Exams, and teacher-made Final Exams as at least twenty (20%) of the student's final grade for each respective course.
- All students identified as limited English proficient must be annually assessed to determine progress and level of English language proficiency.

State-Identified English Language Proficiency

- Language minority students are identified through the use of the home language survey process.
- The state-identified English language proficiency test is administered to eligible students in kindergarten through grade twelve.
- The WIDA ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT) is administered to all initially enrolled language minority students in kindergarten within 30 calendar days at the beginning of the school year or 14 calendar days of enrollment, if the student enrolls after the beginning of the school year.
- The WIDA Screener is administered to incoming students in grades 1-12 to assist educators with the identification of students as English language learners.
- All students identified as limited English proficient must be administered the Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners (ACCESS for ELs) during the annual testing window.
- The Alternate ACCESS for ELs is an assessment of English language proficiency for students in grades 1-12 who are identified as language minority students and have significant cognitive disabilities.

NCEXTEND1

- NCEXTEND1 is an alternate assessment designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities who have Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).
- The assessment process requires students to complete performance-based, multiple-choice items in the following subject areas; English Language Arts/Reading at grades 3-8, 10, and 11, Mathematics at grades 3-8, 10, and 11, and Science at grades 5, 8, 10, and 11, during the designated testing windows.

College and Career Readiness Alternate Assessment

- College and Career Readiness Alternate Assessment is an alternate assessment for eligible students with disabilities who have Individual Education Plans (IEPs).
 - For eligible students at Grade 10 this is an alternate assessment for participation in the PreACT administered in October.
 - For eligible students at Grade 11 this is an alternate assessment for participation in the ACT administered in February.

For additional information about the North Carolina Testing Program, visit the Accountability Services Division website <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/>.

Additional Local Testing

Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) - Grade 3 and Grade 6 is a brief assessment to measure three separate cognitive domains for a more complete perspective on a student's reasoning abilities. The three domains include non-verbal, verbal, and quantitative tests to measure a student's school ability. Students in grades 3 and 6 are tested each year in the fall.

NC Check-Ins are formative benchmark assessments administered throughout the year to provide teachers and parents with immediate feedback for guiding subsequent instruction. These assessments will be administered to grades 3-8 in mathematics and grades 4-8 in reading.

Please call your student's school if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Marsha C. Lipe,
Director, Testing and Accountability, Asheville City Schools

