

E-MESSAGE # 10

DATE: FEBRUARY 23, 2021

Dear PASA DLM Assessment Coordinator (AC):

Yesterday, the U.S. Department of Education provided new guidance to states regarding assessment administration for the spring of 2021. In response to the USDE guidance, Deputy Secretary Matt Stem provided the following email to the field. Please click on the link below to view the proposed approach posted to the PA Department of Education website.

The PA Alternate Assessment Team will continue to support enrollment, data analysis, and test administration procedures. As always, as information becomes available relevant to the PASA, we will continue to keep you informed.

Kindly,

The PA Alternate Assessment Team

From: ED, Future Ready PA <RA-EDFUTUREREADYPA@pa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 9:38 AM
Subject: Update on federally-required statewide assessments

Dear Colleagues,

On Friday, February 12, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) issued an interim update on planning around federally-required statewide assessments. In that communication, we committed to a further update before the end of February to provide the certainty and clarity you need.

On Monday, February 22, the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) provided [new guidance](#) regarding assessment administration for the spring of 2021. This guidance offers an avenue that PDE will pursue, one that complies with Federal law and prioritizes student and public health. You can read about our proposed approach [here](#). **PDE will file the communication with USDE by Friday, February 26.**

We recognize this approach is novel and not without drawbacks; however, we believe it preserves time and space to ensure that you can maintain an appropriate focus for the balance of this school year. Further, we know this plan is likely to generate many questions. We will send additional details as they emerge in the days and weeks ahead.

As always, thank you for your extraordinary leadership on behalf of students, educators, and families.

-Matt

Matthew S Stem | Deputy Secretary

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