

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

May 26, 2015

SUBJECT:

Update on State Testing

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The S. C. Legislature made several changes to the statewide testing program last summer. HSAP for all 10th graders was eliminated at the high school level, and the new high school tests this year were The ACT and WorkKeys for all 11th graders. ACT Aspire replaced the ELA and math portions of SCPASS for students in grades 3-8, but SCPASS was still administered for science and social studies in elementary and middle schools. NCSC replaced the ELA and math portions of SC-Alt for disabled students, but the SC-Alt was still administered for science and social studies. There was also a new test for LEP students named ACCESS.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

The legislation specified that the new tests would be administered in a paper-and-pencil format this year, with an expectation that the state will move to all online testing by the spring of 2017.

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and accept the status information as indicated on the attached summary.

ATTACHMENT:

Statewide Testing Program for Spring 2015

PREPARED BY:

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Statewide Testing Program for Spring 2015

Elementary Schools

- Students in grades 3 – 5 took the ACT Aspire ELA, reading, writing, and math tests April 28-30. They took the optional science test on May 5.
- Students in grades 4 – 5 took the SCPASS science and social studies tests May 7 & 8.

Middle Schools

- Students in grades 6 – 8 took the Aspire ELA, reading, writing, and math tests April 28-30. They took the optional science test on May 5.
- Students in grades 6 – 8 took the SCPASS science and social studies tests May 7 & 8.

Both tests were administered using a paper and pencil format. The time limit on the Aspire tests was a significant change for the students, since the SCPASS tests are not timed.

High Schools

- Students in their third year of high school took The ACT college entrance examination on April 28 and the WorkKeys career readiness test on April 29.
- Students in Algebra I, English I, Biology, and U. S. History continue to take the End of Course tests, which count 20% of their final grade. These tests are online and will be administered up until June 3.
- High school students taking Advanced Placement courses took the exams in those classes the first two weeks in May. Scores on the exams determine whether the students can receive college credit for the classes.

The new ACT tests at all three levels were only purchased for the 2015 spring administration. The state is reconsidering whether these tests will continue to be administered next year or whether we will select a new vendor to assess the new state standards.

Limited English Proficient Students

- LEP students took the new ACCESS test to monitor their mastery of the English language.

Alternative Testing

- The new NCSC test was administered to disabled students for whom The ACT was inappropriate. The Brigance Transition Assessment served as an alternative to WorkKeys.