

New Hampshire Statewide Assessment 2011-2012

Superintendents and School, Principals, and District Statewide Assessment Coordinators,

As a new school year approaches, we want to thank you for your help in developing and administering a quality state-wide assessment system. Please extend our sincere appreciation to everyone in your schools and districts involved in statewide assessment for their careful attention to details. Thanks!

This memo includes information about three areas: NH Statewide Assessment System (NECAP, NH-Alt, and ACCESS for ELLs), Accountability and AYP, and NAEP.

We plan to continue this annual notice. We hope it helps as you think about planning for the next school year. Information included in this message (organized by page number):

1. This cover memo
2. What's new in New Hampshire Statewide Assessment for 2011-2012
3. New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP)
- 4-5. New Hampshire Alternate Learning Progressions (NH-ALPS) Assessment
6. ACCESS for ELLs[®] English Language Proficiency Testing
7. Important Dates 2011-2012 – New Hampshire Statewide Assessment System
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9. National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)
10. SAT/PSAT, ACT Schedule for school year 2011-2012 (AP&IB schedules not available yet)
11. Known Religious Holidays during NECAP Testing in school year 2011-2012

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What's New in NH Statewide Assessment for 2011-2012?

- The **NHSWADL** (New Hampshire State-Wide Assessment Distribution List) has been lost. During the migration of files from one department drive to another, the master spreadsheet was lost. We are working on creating a system for district people to manage their own contact information. When this is up and running, we'll notify the field. Until then, we will be sending notices to Superintendents and Principals, with a request to forward as needed. Thanks for being patient as we sort this out.
- **2011-2012 Medical Emergency Exemption forms for NECAP, NH-Alt, and ACCESS for ELLs[®]** will be published on the Department's website by September 1, 2011 at: <http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/index.htm> within the "Notices" link
- **NH Alternate Learning Progressions (NH ALPS) assessment** enters its second year of operation. Plan to start early. For information on dates & timelines, see pg 4.
- **NECAP Online Writing Assessment Pilot:** Six NH schools will be administering the October 2011 NECAP Writing Assessment online to all their students in grades 8 and 11. Additional schools will be allowed to qualify this spring for the October 2012 NECAP Writing Assessment. Details will follow this next school year.
- **Spring 2012 NECAP Science Test: Computer administered accommodations** will be available for students in grades 4, 8 and 11 through Nimble Tools, which is now a division of Measured Progress. Participating schools will be required to attend a short workshop and conduct a school network load test if this has not already been completed. Details will follow later. **Note:** Nimble online accommodation tools were developed and provided through federal research funds obtained by NHDOE several years ago and this funding is scheduled to end with the 2012 NECAP Science Test. The department may not be able to offer these popular online tools once funding ends. We are trying to bring this technology into the Common Core Assessments now under development, and slated to launch in 2014-2015.
- .Volunteers are needed for 2011-2012 **Statewide Assessment Committees** (application available Sept. 1, 2011 at: <http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/index.htm> within the "Notices" link. Information and application deadlines for the other committees will be available during the school year.

NECAP Bias Review – Contact: Deb Fleurant (603)271-3838

Reading, Mathematics, Science NECAP Test Item Review – Contact: Tim Kurtz (603) 271-3846

NH-ALPs (see NH-ALPs notice on p. 4 of this memo) – Contact: Gaye Fedorchak (603) 271-7383

Reporting Updates from 2010-2011 school year:

- **ELL Accountability Reporting** for school year 2010-2011 tentatively will be released late July or early August, 2011.
- **NECAP Science and NH ALPs Reporting:** Confidential NH ALPs student level data will be released to districts on September 16. Confidential NECAP Science student level data will be released September 19 with public reporting to follow on September 21.

Websites for NH Statewide Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability

<http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/curriculum/index.htm>

<http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/index.htm>

<http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/accountability/index.htm>

New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP)

In October, NECAP will be used to assess grade 3-8 and 11 students in reading and mathematics, and grade 5, 8, and 11 students in writing. In May, NECAP will be used to assess grade 4, 8, and 11 students in science.

NECAP	What content areas are assessed?			
	October 3-25, 2011 (pick up October 26)			May 7-24, 2012 (pick up May 25)
	Grade Level	Reading	Math	Writing
3	Yes	Yes	-	-
4	Yes	Yes	-	Yes
5	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
6	Yes	Yes	-	-
7	Yes	Yes	-	-
8	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
11	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

We will be running a series of workshops connected to both the fall and spring assessments. These include test administration workshops (prior to the assessment) and reporting/test interpretation workshops (after the assessment). The Test Administration workshops for the fall include face-to-face workshops for new test coordinators and new principals, a live Webinar for experienced test coordinators (that will be posted on our website for later viewing), and a Webinar for test administrators (that will be posted on our website for viewing). The registration site will be open in early August (iregister.measuredprogress.org). Other workshops will be posted later in the year.

Fall 2011 NECAP Test Administration Workshops

	Date	Time	Location	Seating
Webinars for Experienced Test Coordinators, and for Test Administrators	September - tbd	tbd	Any computer terminal	infinite
Webinar for NECAP Online Writing Pilot (Grades 8 and 11)	August 24	tbd	Any computer terminal	infinite
New Test Coordinators and New Principals	Wednesday, September 7	1:00-4:00	Bretton Woods – Highland Center	75
New Test Coordinators and New Principals	Thursday, September 8	1:00-4:00	Bedford – SERESC	200

We hope to be able to issue assessment reports connected to the fall NECAP in the fourth week of January. Your help with packing up fall NECAP material correctly and returning promptly will go a long way toward meeting this goal. This will include results for reading, mathematics at grades 3-8 and 11, and for writing at grades 5, 8, and 11.

Where do I find more information about NECAP?

Updates: <http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/updates.htm>
 NECAP Materials: <http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/NECAP>
 Contact: Tim Kurtz, 271-3846, TKurtz@ed.state.nh.us

NH Alternate Learning Progression (NH ALPs) Assessment

What's New for 2011-2012?

The New Hampshire Alternate Learning Progressions assessment will be administered for the second time during 2011-12. We've learned so much from the first year of this assessment and are deeply grateful for the creativity, the courage and the substantial effort shown by so many teachers during the last school year to learn about and to implement this test. It has been a tough journey, but the academic progress made with our students has been incredible! This summer, several teams of NH teachers are working with us to score this assessment and develop descriptions of what proficiency in reading, writing, mathematics, and science *looks like* for alt-assessed students across the grades. Teachers are also serving on Standard Setting Panels that will choose the test score "cut-points" that define the raw scores that meet those levels of proficiency.

Alternately Assessed Students in Grade:	What content areas are assessed in 2011-2012?			
	Reading	Math	Writing	Science
2	Yes	Yes	-	-
3	Yes	Yes	-	-
4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
5	Yes	Yes	-	-
6	Yes	Yes		
7	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
8	-	-	-	Yes
10	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
11	-	-	-	Yes

Later this year we will be publishing "stories from the road" on our website recounting experiences reported during the first year of this new system. We promise to include *both* good stories *and* bad ones. Some of the stories will amaze you. Some will inspire. Others will remind us how incredibly difficult our work can be, and how much we *all* have yet to learn. Nobody has all this figured out, but we are on the journey and accomplishing so much with our students. With parent permission, and your great work, we are also developing a series of short videos to illustrate examples of how students with very severe and multiple disabilities *are demonstrating* academic knowledge and skills we never thought possible before. When a team figures out how to help a child with serious challenges learn something important, we will share what we can, *if permission is granted*, to help others. We all need this and intend to grow this resource over the coming years. We are also continuing to search for effective *but easier* ways to conduct this assessment, and for resources that will support teachers to do so.

Key Dates – Early Info:

- **Reporting of 2010-11 NH ALPs Assessment Results:** Sept. 16, 2011 - Confidential Student-Level Reports will be issued online. Schools will also receive 2 hard-copy reports for each participating student: one copy for parents and one for the file. Aggregated school, district and state level reports will be released shortly thereafter. (*Details by late summer*)
- **Test Report Interpretation Workshops:** November. (*Details by late summer*) Depending on available funding, these may only be held at the NH Department of Education. If possible, we will offer them regionally. *These workshops are highly recommended*, but seating will be somewhat limited. Once announced in late summer or early September, please register early. Anyone can attend. We will publish the *Test Report Interpretation Guide* online this fall.
- **Deciding who Participates in NH ALPs Assessment: Qualifying Criteria and Decision Making Support**
 Go online to: <http://www.measuredprogress.org/assessments/clients/nh-alt.aspx>
 then choose: "Participation Decisions, Guidelines & Forms." The first 3 documents on this page are key.
- **Teacher Workshops for 2011-12:** (*Details by late summer*) Anyone can attend. School teams are strongly encouraged to attend together, but are *not* required to do so this year. General and special educators will need to collaborate to administer this assessment effectively. *Teachers must be trained* to administer this test.
 - November** – Topics Workshop: *Video Capture of Student Academic Performance*
 - November** – Topics Workshop: *Teaching Students with Multiple, Very Severe, or Low Incidence Disabilities*
 - January** - *Official NH ALPs Test Administration Workshops* (statewide)
- **2011-2012 Test Administration Window:** January – early May 2012
- **Teacher Coaching Sessions:** January –May, 2012

- **District Registration of All Participating Students:** March 2012 (Sending districts must do this-same as before.)
- **UPS pick up of completed NH ALPs assessments:** Date approximate - about May 4th (TBA).
- **Where can I find information on the NH Alternate Learning Progressions?**
Go online to our web page: <http://www.measuredprogress.org/assessments/clients/nh-alt.aspx>

How can we prepare for the assessment?

1. As early as possible - teams determine which students qualify and decide who should participate. *Don't wait.*
2. As early as possible - update your Contact Information Form on the NH ALPs website to receive timely notices of upcoming test administration workshops and other training opportunities. The NHDOE does NOT know who needs to attend training- but you do. Let *out-of-district providers* know! Ask them to submit their contact information. If we have accurate, current contact info we can make sure the people who *most need* the information get it. Until a district registers a student for alternate assessment in March, we, at the Department, *do not know* where they are enrolled. By this time, training is over and *it's too late* for us to contact these schools. Please contact your out-of-district providers to update them.
3. Review the NH Alternate Learning Progressions with the team, and work together to find out where your student is currently functioning along these progressions. Find current performance levels and get started on instruction! See the website for resources and information. We'll update the documents this fall – but they are useful right now and there is a lot of support material on this site.
4. Ask yourself anchoring questions, like:
 - *Where, within the curriculum, is our student successfully communicating choices or attempting to answer questions, or showing interest and engagement? How might we engage his or her interest?*
 - *How effective is our student's communication system?*
 - *How does he or she initiate communication with us? Are we effectively communicating with him or her?*
 - *How can we improve communication with this student - especially about academic information?*
 - *Who are our team resource people for Reading instruction? Math instruction? Writing? Science?*
 - *Who knows the most about making content accessible and differentiating instruction?*
 - *Keep reminding yourself – this is a team process... and that AYP does not actually spell anything!*
5. Practice using a digital video camera. We're offering video user workshops this November to help teachers learn to use these tools effectively. Digital video cameras are not expensive and can be purchased through many education funding sources, including IDEA, technology, and school improvement monies. If you already have one, locate it and make sure it's working. You will need a digital video camera to collect data.

For more information, contact:

- Gaye Fedorchak, Director of NH Alternate Learning Progressions (NH-ALPs) Assessment at: gfedorchak@ed.state.nh.us,
- Allyson Vignola, Field Coach for the NH-ALPs at: allysonvignola@hotmail.com
- Marie Cote, Field Coach for the NH-ALPs at: marie.cote@comcast.net
- Tina Haley, Program Manager, at: haley.cristina@measuredprogress.org 1- (800) 431-8901

ACCESS for ELLs[®] English Language Proficiency Test



The number of English Language Learners (ELLs) who took the ACCESS for ELLs[®] English language proficiency test in 2010-2011 was well over 4,500. Districts need to be aware of the civil rights and federal laws surrounding this growing population.

To determine which students are ELLs, every family in NH should be given a Home Language Survey when their child is first enrolled in the district. The coordinating certified ELL teacher in each school or district reviews the surveys to determine which students may be eligible for ELL services. Those students are then screened using the W-APT and, depending on the scores, the certified ELL teacher determines which students, if any, are eligible for ELL services.

Once the certified ELL teacher determines that a child is eligible for ELL services, parents are contacted for their permission to enroll that child in the ELL instructional program. All ELLs are required to take the ACCESS for ELLs[®] English language proficiency test during the testing period in January and February each year, regardless of whether parents accept or refuse ELL services for their child. All students who are eligible for ELL services must take the ACCESS for ELLs[®] test each year until they are deemed proficient whether the student is in a Title III school district or not.

- The W-APT is used in NH as the screener for English Language Proficiency. This screener is free and may be downloaded from the www.wida.us website. Only certified ELL teachers are able to administer the W-APT. Please call Joanne Magarian at the NH-DoE (271-3196) for a password.
- The ACCESS for ELLs[®] English language proficiency test may only be given by certified ELL test administrators. NH certified ELL teachers are eligible to become ACCESS certified administrators. Please contact Susan Morgan at the NH-DoE (271-3719) for details.
- Information regarding specific dates and timelines for training and testing will be posted on the ACCESS for ELLs[®] website found at <http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/ells.htm>
- For news and other important information from the NH Title III office and the ACCESS for ELLs[®] Assessment office at the NH-DoE, please join the NH ESOL Listserve by contacting Dr. Suzanne Irujo, listserv facilitator, at sirujo@bu.edu. This listserv has information about conferences, courses, and other regional events. Districts may use this listserv to post electronic ads for ELL teachers.

Where do I find more information about English Language Proficiency Screening and Testing?

Contact: Susan Morgan at 271-3719 or at smorgan@ed.state.nh.us.

Website: <http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/ells.htm> or click on the letter A at the top of the NH DOE homepage and then click on ACCESS for ELLs[®]

Important Dates for 2011-2012 – NH Statewide Assessment

- **July 15-August 9:** Submit initial NECAP Label Request to Department for fall testing (through i4see). Districts should submit label requests for all public school students, and all Out-of-District placed students who are not placed in a NH Public School.
- **July/August:** Release of Title III Accountability reports
- **August 19:** Last day to accept orders for Braille and Large Print for Fall NECAP. Order Fall NECAP Large Print Test Forms and/or Braille test forms by calling Measured Progress at 877-632-7774. Please provide student name, SASID, and grade level as of September 2011.
- **September:** ELL Assessment Training calendar begins (see website listed on page 6 of this memo)
- **September 7, 8:** NECAP Test Administration Workshops for New Test Administrators and New Principals
- **Mid September:** Web based Test Administration Workshop for experienced Test Coordinators and Test Administrators. (notice to schools and districts in August)
- **September 9:** Fall NECAP Tests Shipped
- **September 15:** Confidential Release of NH-Alt student level results (7:00 AM)
- **September 19:** Confidential Release of NECAP Science student level results (7:00 AM)
- **September 21:** Public Release of NECAP Science (10:00 AM)
- **September 29:** Last day to order second round NECAP Labels (through i4see)
- **October 3-25:** Administration Window - Fall 2011 NECAP Test Administration (Pick up on October 26)
- **November:** Order ACCESS for ELLs test
- **Early January:** Receive shipment of ACCESS for ELLs test
- **Mid January through February:** Administer ACCESS for ELLs test
- **Late January:** Release of NECAP Results for grades 3-8, 11
- **January:** NH ALPs Test Administration Workshops (registration at <http://iregister.measuredprogress.org>)
- **February:** NECAP Test Results Interpretation Workshops (Reading, Writing, Mathematics - TBA)
- **February:** Mid-year collection of ELL data
- **February 1:** ELL students enrolled in NH districts by February 1 must participate in the ACCESS for ELLs® test
- **March 1:** NH ALPs students enrolled in a NH district by March 1 must complete and submit a May portfolio
- **March:** Online registration for student participating in NH ALPs Assessment Portfolios
- **Early March:** Return of ACCESS for ELLs test to MetriTech
- **Mid March:** Braille and Large Print Orders for NECAP Science are due (for students new since October)
- **Early April:** Last day to submit initial NECAP Science Label Request to Department for spring testing (through i4see). Districts should submit label requests for all public school students, and all Out-of-District placed students who are not placed in a NH Public School..
- **April:** Spring 2012 NECAP Science Test Administration Workshops
- **Early May:** UPS Pick-up of all completed NH-ALPs Assessment Portfolios (from attending school)
- **Mid May:** Release of ACCESS for ELLs test results to schools
- **May 7-24:** 2012 NECAP Science Assessment test administration window (pick up on May 25)

AYP Updates for 2011-2012

The NH Department of Education is not anticipating any changes to AYP calculations next year. All calculations will remain the same; however, targets go up in the 2011-12 school year for both reading and math and for graduation rate.

Index Targets increase:

Gr. 3-8: Reading increases from 91 to 95
Math increases from 88 to 94

Gr. 11: Reading increases from 89 to 94
Math increases from 72 to 86

4 year Cohort Graduation Rate Target for the Class of 2011 is 85%.

The Technical Advisory explaining Graduation Rate calculations can be found at:
http://www.education.nh.gov/standards/documents/grad_rate.pdf

All AYP information is updated every spring and can be found at:
<http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/accountability/ayp/index.htm>

AYP 2012 Demographic Data Definitions and Sources

This document identifies the student demographic data sources that will be used to run the January 2012 NECAP assessment reports and the spring 2012 AYP Reports. It will be updated and posted on the accountability web page.

NH Accountability System

In June 2009, the NH State Legislature passed Senate Bill 180, now RSA 193-E that “establishes an accountability system to ensure schools are providing the opportunity for an adequate education.”

The legislation defines the two components of the accountability system: an input-based system and a performance-based system.

The overview of the developing system can be found at:
http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/school_improve/documents/overview.pdf

The Commissioner's Task Force to Develop a Performance-Based Accountability System for NH schools has been meeting since October 2009. The system as agreed upon is in the testing stage and also awaits legislative approval. Regional meetings with Superintendents and Principals will be held in the fall to explain the system to schools and districts and for further verification of the system.

For more information about the NH Accountability System, go to:
http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/school_improve/account_sys.htm

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

Traditionally, the State-NAEP Assessment that was completed with NAEP 2011 is followed by a National-NAEP Assessment that begins its cycle in the spring, prior to the academic year in which the assessment is administered. New Hampshire, however, along with fourteen other states, will not be participating in NAEP 2012. As a result, the next NAEP Assessment—NAEP 2013—will not begin its administration cycle until late spring of 2012.

Below are key dates related to NAEP 2011 and NAEP 2013:

- October 2011 – Release of New Hampshire NAEP 2011 Mathematics and Readings scores for Grades 4 and 8.
- Early Spring 2012 – Release of New Hampshire NAEP 2011 Science scores for Grade 8.
- May 2012 – Notification to Superintendents and Principals of schools sampled for NAEP 2013.
- June 2012 – Notification to Principals of assessment dates selected for NAEP 2013.

In addition to the releases for NAEP 2011 and the administration of NAEP 2013, NAEP will be rolling out a more user-friendly version of its NAEP Questions Tool, sometime in 2012. Once online, the NAEP State Coordinator will be visiting interested schools to demonstrate the use and capabilities of the new Questions Tool.

Where do I find more information about NAEP?

<http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/index.htm>

(then select the link: NAEP; or contact: Tim Eccleston, 271-2298,
timothy.eccleston@ed.state.nh.us)

Some **SAT/PSAT Test Dates for 2011-2012**

2011-2012 Test Dates	Test
October 1, 2011	SAT & Subject Tests
October 12, 2011	PSAT/NMSQT
October 15, 2011	PSAT/NMSQT
May 5, 2011	SAT & Subject Tests

Source: www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/calenfees.html
<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/reg/dates.html>

AP 2012 Exams Schedule (not available yet)

In May 2011, AP exams were administered May 2-6 and 9-13.

Source: <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/cal.html>

IB Exam Schedule (not available yet)

In May 2011, IB exams were administered April 29, May 3-6, 9-13, 17-20, 23

Source: <http://www.ibo.org/>

ACT Dates for School Year 2011-2012

2011: September 10, October 22, December 10

2012: February 11, April 14, June 9

Source: <http://www.actstudent.org>

Known Religious Holidays During NECAP Testing

School Year 2011-2012

OCTOBER 2011

- 4 St Francis Day - **Catholic Christian**
- 5 Waqf al Arafa - Hajj Day * ** - **Islam**
- 6 Dasera - **Hindu**
- 8 Yom Kippur * - **Jewish**
- 10 Thanksgiving - **Interfaith - Canada**
- 13-19 Sukkot * - **Jewish** (13-14 Primary Obligation Days)
- 20 Birth of the Báb * - **Baha'i**
Shemini Atzeret * - **Jewish**
Installation of Scriptures as Guru Granth - **Sikh**
- 21 Simhat Torah * - **Jewish**
- 22 New Year - **Jain**

MAY 2012

- 6 Visakha Puja - Buddha Day ** - **Buddhist**
- 10 Lag B'Omer * - **Jewish**
- 17 Ascension Day - **Christian**
- 23 Declaration of the Bab * - **Baha'i**
- 24 All Ascension of Jesus - **Orthodox Christian**
- 27 Pentecost - **Christian**
- 27-28 Shavuot * - **Jewish**
- 29 Ascension of Baha'u'llah * - **Baha'i**

* Means that Holy days begin at sundown the day before this date.

** Regional customs, group preference or moon sightings may cause a variation of this date.

Bold titles are primary holy days of a tradition.

For Additional Information on Religious Holidays

Go to: <http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/2011.htm>
<http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/2012.htm>