



November 2015

TO: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Public Schools
Public School Administrators
Nonpublic School Administrators
Charter School Administrators
Special Education Directors
Chairpersons of Committees on Special Education
Superintendents, State Operated Schools
Executive Directors, Approved Private Schools
Other State Agency Education Program Directors

FROM: James P. DeLorenzo, Assistant Commissioner
Office of Special Education

Peter Swerdzewski, Assistant Commissioner
Office of Assessment, Standards, and Curriculum

SUBJECT: Revised Test Administration Start Date for the 2015-16 New York State Alternate Assessment in Science and Social Studies

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform school administrators and staff of the revised and expanded test administration period for the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) in science and social studies for the 2015-16 school year. NYSAA is the State testing program that measures the attainment of the State's learning standards in English language arts (ELA), mathematics, science, and social studies for all students with severe disabilities in Grades 3-8 and high school.

In consultation with the NYSAA Educator Advisory Panel (EAP), the Department has determined that it is appropriate to extend the 2015-16 test administration period for the science and social studies assessment in order to provide teachers with additional time to administer the assessment. The revised NYSAA science and social studies test administration period will now **begin on December 7, 2015** and end, as originally scheduled, on February 12, 2016. While school personnel administering the NYSAA in these subjects are not required to begin on December 7, 2015, the opportunity is now available for teachers to start assessing, as early as this date, if they choose to do so.

Attached for your reference is a chart of the overall format of the NYSAA, with the revised dates for test administration in science and social studies highlighted. For additional information on the English Language Arts and Math computer based components of NYSAA, please refer to the September 2015 memo from Executive Deputy Commissioner, Beth Berlin:

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/nysaa/2015-16/nysaa-memo16.pdf>.

If you have questions, you may contact the Office of State Assessment at 518-474-5900 or 518-474-5902, or by email to emscassessinfo@nysed.gov.

Attachment

NYSAA 2015-16 Overview of Content Areas

Revised

Content Area	Grades Assessed	Administration Format	Administration Period	Scoring Period	Scoring Format	Test Contractor
English Language Arts	3-8 and High School	Computer-Based Test	March 21, 2016 through June 3, 2016	N/A*	Computer-Based Scoring	Dynamic Learning Maps
Mathematics	3-8 and High School	Computer-Based Test	March 21, 2016 through June 3, 2016	N/A*	Computer-Based Scoring	Dynamic Learning Maps
Science	4, 8, and High School	Portfolio-Style-Datafolio	Dec. 7, 2015 through Feb. 12, 2016	Feb. 29, 2016 through March 18, 2016	Regional Scoring Institutes	Measured Progress, Inc.
Social Studies	High School	Portfolio-Style-Datafolio	Dec. 7, 2015 through Feb. 12, 2016	Feb. 29, 2016 Through March 18, 2016	Regional Scoring Institutes	Measured Progress, Inc.

*Not Applicable