



Assessment Update

November 2013

Winter Keystone testing begins Dec. 2

The Winter Keystone Exams are scheduled in two separate waves to accommodate semester end dates in schools that have block scheduling. The testing window for wave 1 is Dec. 2–13, 2013. The testing window for wave 2 is Jan. 8–22, 2014. A district may test all subjects during a single wave or split the subjects between waves, but a single subject cannot be tested during both waves. All schools in the district must follow the same window for security reasons.

Additional Materials Requests

Additional material requests must be placed for the wave in which the subject is assessed. Material requests received during the incorrect window will not be processed.

Please do not place an additional materials order until each waves' material has been received and inventoried. The additional materials window for Wave 1 is Nov. 19–Dec. 12. The additional materials window for Wave 2 is Dec. 21–Jan 21.

End of Course Bubble

The end of course information, captured on page 1 of the answer booklet for paper/pencil testers and in eDIRECT for online testers, must be completed by school personnel before testing. It is important to note that the eDIRECT default is "Yes" for enrollment in a Keystone-related course. If an online tester is not enrolled in a Keystone-related course, eDIRECT must be manually updated via the "Edit Student" function.

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Web-based testing coming in February

DRC will release the new INSIGHT Web-Based Test Engine (WBTE) in February 2014. The Web-Based Test Engine has many advantages: easier setup and maintenance (no more software releases), secure browser (locks down computer) for high-stakes testing, and enhanced magnification without pixilation.

The WBTE will allow for additional system testing and will result in a positive student experience when the new engine is released.

Sites testing online for the Winter Keystone Exams and Classroom Diagnostic Tools will continue to use the JAVA Test Engine until the WBTE is released in February. The transition will require sites to uninstall the JAVA test engine and install the secure browser on each device to be used for testing. The LCS will also be available for download.

In order to test online after the February release, all sites are required to download the WBTE.

Contact DRC PA Customer Service 1-800-451-7849
Email: PAcustomerservice@datarecognitioncorp.com
eDIRECT website: <https://pa.drctedirect.com>

PSSA

Students in grades 3–8 must participate in the PSSAs applicable to each grade. Results from the reading, mathematics, science, and writing assessments will be used for accountability reporting.

The 2014 PSSAs are available in paper/pencil and online. If interested in taking the exams online, Online Tools Trainings (OTTs) and Tutorials will be available in February. OTTs and Tutorials provide a hands-on experience in online testing.

For sites participating in online exams, the new Web-based test engine will be available for download in February. The Technical User Guide will be available on eDIRECT under General Information/Documents/General Testing Information.

Student Precode Labels will be produced for all valid student records provided to DRC from the PIMS November Snapshot. Schools do not have to establish paper test sessions in eDIRECT to receive precode labels. Schools testing online must establish online test sessions in eDIRECT to receive test tickets.

All additional materials requests for the PSSA must be placed through eDIRECT (faxed requests will not be processed).

Sites receiving secure paper/pencil materials must report the date of receipt and the number of materials returned. The Materials Receipt Notice and Materials Accountability form are found on eDIRECT. Permissions will be granted to the District Assessment Coordinator.

ELA: Writing Field Test

Public school students in grades 6, 7, and 8 should participate in the ELA: Writing Field Test on February 3–14, 2014.

Test material and label quantities are based on a school's PSSA enrollments for grades 6, 7, and 8. Public school sites will receive secure materials by January 17, 2014.

The field test is designed to be administered in a single session to all eligible students in attendance on the day of the administration. Accommodated forms are not available for the field test, and make-up sessions are not necessary for students who are absent. Additional materials requests are also not available.

Information obtained from the 2014 ELA: Writing Field Test will be used to select items for future ELA assessments. Participating students will be "testing the items" for future assessment consideration. No data will be returned to your school or district.

PSSA Training Opportunities

Live Location	Date	Time	Videoconference Sites	Phone Number
King of Prussia PaTTAN 200 Anderson Rd King of Prussia, PA 19406	Feb. 10	9am – 11 am & 1pm – 3 pm	PaTTAN Harrisburg, PaTTAN Pittsburgh	(610) 265-7321
Harrisburg PaTTAN 6340 Flank Drive Harrisburg, PA 17112	Feb. 11	9am – 11 am & 1pm – 3 pm	PaTTAN Pittsburgh, PaTTAN King of Prussia	(717) 541-4960
Pittsburgh PaTTAN 3190 William Pitt Way Pittsburgh, PA 15238	Feb. 13	9am – 11 am & 1pm – 3 pm	PaTTAN Harrisburg, PaTTAN King of Prussia	(412) 826-2336

The 2014 PSSA administration training sessions will be held at the Harrisburg, King of Prussia, and Pittsburgh PaTTAN office locations. **The information being presented is critical to the administration of these assessments; therefore, it is required that every LEA send at least one representative to a training session.** These are train-the-trainer sessions. It is expected that the representative deliver the information to his/her coordinators and test administrators.

The training sessions will be presented live at each of the PaTTAN sites listed above and broadcast via videoconference to the other PaTTAN locations, along with additional Intermediate Unit sites. For a list of available down link sites and to register for this event, please visit PaTTAN's website at www.pattan.net. Online registration enables you to receive registration confirmation via email, keep track of professional development activities with the transcript feature, and view other available activities.

Spring Keystone Exams

The Spring Keystone Exams testing window is May 12–23, 2014. The Spring Keystone Exams are available for Algebra I, Literature, and Biology. These exams should be administered to any student who is at or near completion of a corresponding course or to students eligible for retesting. Additionally, students who will be in grade 11 in spring 2014 and have not yet taken or passed the Keystone Exams should be administered the exams for inclusion in 2014 accountability calculations. Ordering materials for the Spring Keystone Exams occurred Oct. 28–Nov. 1, 2013. Test setup for the Spring Keystone Exams will be available March 12–18, 2014. In order to receive precode labels for the Spring Keystone Exams, paper test sessions must be created in eDIRECT during this window. Student records provided to DRC from the February PIMS collection will be available in eDIRECT to assist with test setup.

Secure materials for the Spring Keystone Exams will arrive by April 28, 2014. Schools should be prepared to handle both outgoing PSSA materials and incoming Keystone materials at this time.

Winter Keystone (continued from page 1)

The Online Corrections System on eDIRECT for the 2013/2014 Winter Keystone Exams will be available Feb. 12–18, 2014. During this window, every LEA is required to provide or update student demographic information (PAsecureID, Last Name, First Name, and DOB) for any student records that are not matched to PIMS. Because the Keystone Exams' scores are calculated as the best score over multiple administrations, the system will also allow users to link student records from the 2013–2014 Winter Keystone Exams to past Keystone Exams test events.

The Keystone Exams will be offered in online and paper/pencil testing modes for Algebra I, Biology, and Literature. Students in grade 11 who have not previously taken the Keystone Exams are required to complete all three Keystone Exams during the 2013–2014 school year for federal accountability purposes. Also, any student in grade 9 or below is required to take a Keystone Exam if they are enrolled in the Keystone-related course.

CDT

The Pennsylvania Department of Education is conducting a Grades 3–5 field test for all subjects (Reading, Math, Science, and Writing) from Oct. 1, 2013–Nov. 27, 2013. These grades will be part of the operational CDT in spring of 2014.

By participating in the field test, students and test administrators can get firsthand experience using the online testing system, and districts can assess their technical capacity for online testing. Participation in the field test is important in helping the state develop successful programs as well as design statistically valid assessments for all students. Online test sessions can be established via eDIRECT Test Setup utilizing students already in the system from PIMS.

NOTE: The Grades 3–5 Field Test will be set up as a separate administration in eDIRECT.

DRC will produce student-level percentile results for the field test and post them to eDIRECT by March 1, 2014. The percentile report provides data on how a student scored among all students across the state that took the same form.

SPP

PDE's School Performance Profile (SPP) system will be refreshed for schools that requested to have their PVAAS Growth data suppressed in the initial release. The updated Growth inputs will reflect corrections made to the student-level Keystone-course enrollment information.

In conjunction with the update of the School Performance Profile, PDE's new Required Federal Reporting Measures will be available via www.eseafedreport.com. This new report replaces the annual production of the State Report Card. Much of the same data LEAs have been accustomed to accessing from the State Report Card will be reported in the Required Federal Reporting Measures, along with new data for the Federal Accountability Designations.

Both the SPP update and the release of the Required Federal Reporting Measures are targeted for December 7, 2013.

Key Dates

Winter Keystone

Wave 1 secure test materials arrive at Districts/Schools	November 18, 2013
Wave 1 Testing Window	December 2–13, 2013
Deadline for Districts to return Wave 1 materials to DRC for processing	December 18, 2013
Wave 2 secure test materials arrive at Districts/Schools	December 20, 2013
Wave 2 Testing Window	January 8–22, 2014
Deadline for Districts to return Wave 2 materials to DRC for processing	January 27, 2014

PSSA

PIMS collection window for PSSA Precode Labels	November 14–28, 2013
ELA: Writing Field Test Window	February 3–14, 2014
Online Test Setup Opens	February 10, 2014
Test Administrator Training	February 10–14, 2014
Reading/Mathematics Test Window	March 17–28, 2014
Writing Test Window & Reading/Mathematics Make-up	March 31–April 4, 2014
Writing Make-up	April 7–11, 2014
Science Test Window	April 28–May 2, 2014
Science Make-up	May 5–9, 2014

Spring Keystone

PIMS collection window for Spring Keystone participation	February 10–14, 2014
Test Setup Window	March 12–18, 2014
Testing Window	May 12–23, 2014

CDT

PIMS collections window for CDT update	November 14–28, 2013
Grades 3–5 Field Test student-level percentile results available	March 1, 2014

C L A S S R O O M
DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS

