

SED Update October 2015

Assessment

Schools are now volunteering (or not) to try a stand-alone 3-8 ELA or math field test in a computer-based format. At this point, approximately 20% of schools have expressed a willingness to try a computer-based format. By the end of the new test-development contract with Questar (new vendor), the actual assessments will be available (but not required) in a computer-based format.

Computer based practice tests will be available for everyone to use - if they wish - by January. The practice tests will allow people to see how the embedded math tools work and try them out.

There are no immediate plans for computer-based Regents examinations. The problem is that SED does not have the money to make the transition. At this point, there is not much of a public outcry for computer-based Regents testing, yet. If the 3-8 experience is positive then this might change.

[Dynamic Learning Map Program](#) (DLM) is the new NYSAA vendor for ELA & math. It is an online assessment program but it is not a big technology burden because the test is administered individually to students. The window for the ELA & math testing will be March to the beginning of June. The vendor scores the tests so this relieves schools of the scoring responsibility. These are the “[Essential Elements](#)” of the new format and here are some [sample items](#). Science and social studies will remain unchanged in the NYSAA, with a window that starts at the beginning of January and goes through mid-February.

Standards

A “Standards Survey” is due out from SED. They want to collect feedback from the field about the standards and their implementation. Subsequently, a standards review team will take a look at the feedback. The [survey](#) will be open from October 21st until November 30th.

More **social studies** inquiries continue to be posted to the [c3 teachers.org](#) site. A video about the Social Studies Toolkit should be available soon (and posted to the c3 site).

The release of the draft of new **science standards** might be delayed because of the standards survey. Or, at least the feedback gathering might be delayed as SED tried to avoid two surveys going on at once.

APPR

The [assessment RFQ](#) is up and assessments are being reviewed on a rolling basis. Assessments that can be used for the student performance/SLO portion have been approved. Districts are having success submitting their own assessments ([see list](#)). STAR is also on the list. No assessments have been approved as supplemental measures, yet.

[EngageNY](#) has resources about §3012-d, as does OCM BOCES on its [APPR site](#).