



# JACKSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

The READY Accountability Model (adopted in 2012-2013) acknowledges that every child is provided an education that properly prepares him or her for their next big steps after graduation – college, career, and adulthood. The North Carolina Department of Public Education Accountability Services Division is committed to evaluating how students are learning and where we must make improvement based on performance indicators, progress indicators, and growth indicators.

## North Carolina Testing Program

The following tests will be given during the 2020-2021 school year. It is required that all students participate in the state testing program.

### **Elementary and Middle School Grades 3-8**

- Students at *grade 3* take the Beginning-of-Grade 3 English Language Arts/Reading Test by the 20<sup>th</sup> face to face day of the school year.
- Students at *grades 3, 4, 6, and 7* take End-of-Grade tests in English Language Arts/Reading and Mathematics during the last 10 days of the school year.
- Students at *grades 5 and 8* take End-of-Grade tests in English Language Arts/Reading, Mathematics, and Science during the last 10 days of the school year.
- All students identified as limited English proficient must be annually assessed to determine progress and level of English language proficiency.

### **High School Grades 9-12**

- Students who are enrolled for credit in courses where End-of-Course (EOC) tests and Career and Technical Education (CTE) State Post Assessments are required shall take the appropriate End-of-Course test, and CTE Post Assessment.
- End-of-Course tests and CTE Post Assessments are given during the last 5 days of the instructional period for 4X4/semester courses or the last 10 days of the instructional period for traditional/yearlong courses.
- Students at *grade 10* take the PreACT (curriculum-based educational and career planning assessment that measures achievement in English, Math, Reading, and Science) in October-May.
- Students in *grade 11* take the ACT (college admission and placement test evaluating learning in English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science) in February.
- Students at *grade 12* who are identified as Career and Technical Education concentrators are required to take the WorkKeys assessments.
- For 2020-21, EOC tests are available for the following subjects: NC Math I, NC Math III, Biology, and English II.
- Per State Board of Education policy, schools are to use results from all End-of-Course, Career and Technical Education State Assessments, and teacher-made Final Exams as at least twenty (20%) of the

student's final grade for each respective course. JCPS will count exams as 25% of a student's final grade for each course.

- All students identified as limited English proficient must be annually assessed to determine progress and level of English language proficiency.

### **State-Identified English Language Proficiency**

- Language minority students are identified through the use of the home language survey process.
- The state-identified English language proficiency test is administered to eligible students in *kindergarten through grade twelve*.
- The WIDA ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT) or the WIDA Online Screener is administered to all initially enrolled language minority students within 45 calendar days at the beginning of the school year or 45 calendar days of enrollment if the student enrolls after the beginning of the school year.
- All students identified as limited English proficient must be administered the Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners (ACCESS for ELLs) during the annual testing window.
- The Alternate ACCESS for ELLs is an assessment of English language proficiency for students in *grades 1-12* who are identified as language minority students and have significant cognitive disabilities.

### **NCEXTEND1**

- NCEXTEND1 is an alternate assessment designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities who have Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).
- The assessment process requires students to complete performance-based, multiple-choice items in the following subject areas; English Language Arts/Reading at *grades 3-8, 10, and 11*, Mathematics at *grades 3-8, 10, and 11*, and Science at *grades 5, 8, 10, and 11*, during the designated testing windows.

### **College and Career Readiness Alternate Assessment**

- College and Career Readiness Alternate Assessment is an alternate assessment for eligible students with disabilities who have Individual Education Plans (IEPs).
  - For eligible students at *Grade 10* this is an alternate assessment for participation in the PreACT administered in October-May.
  - For eligible students at *Grade 11* this is an alternate assessment for participation in the ACT administered in February.

### **i-Ready Reading – K-3**

- All Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students' basic reading skills are assessed using i-Ready three times throughout the school year. This web-based assessment provides immediate feedback about the instructional needs of students in the area of foundational reading skills. Parents receive "Home Connect Letters" three times a year with information about each child's reading skills and suggestions for reading activities to do at home. The state of North Carolina requires this assessment for all students in Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

For additional information about the North Carolina Testing Program, visit the Accountability Services Division website <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/>. For additional information regarding JCPS Testing Program, visit <http://www.jcpsnc.org/> and select Testing and Accountability.

## Additional Local Testing

### ***Nagileri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT3) - Grade 3***

- The NNAT3 is a brief nonverbal measure of general ability. The assessment uses questions that focus on patterns and geometric shapes; often the questions are referred to as figural matrices and require no reading. The assessment results are used internally to provide information for the Academically or Intellectually Gifted Program, students will not receive assessment results. Students in grade 3 are assessed each spring.

### ***NC Check-Ins***

- The North Carolina Check-Ins are interim assessments that are developed by North Carolina Department of Instruction and are administered three times throughout the year. Teachers will be provided immediate feedback on student understanding on specific standards aligned to the NC Standard Course of Study. Teachers will use this information to guide further instruction as they move through the school year. The following grade levels and subject areas will participate in NC Check-Ins for the 2020-21 school year: grades 3 – 8 will participate with math, grades 4 – 8 will participate with English Language Arts, grades 5 & 8 will participate with science, and students taking NC Math 1 in grades 8 & 9.

### ***EOC Local Developed Schoolnet Benchmarks***

- EOC benchmarks will be administered twice a semester for NC Math 3, Biology, and English II. The purpose of the assessments is to provide specific data that is focused on NC Standards to guide further instruction.

### ***i-Ready Math***

- I-Ready Math is an online math diagnostic screener for students in grades K-8. Students will participate in the screener three times each school year. The purpose is to gain specific skill deficits that a student might have. Teachers will use the information gained to provide targeted interventions throughout the school year to fill in the specific skill gaps that a student might have.

Please call your student's school if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Adam Holt  
Director of Testing and Accountability  
Jackson County Public Schools