



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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**TO** LEA Superintendents  
Charter School Directors

**FROM** Rebecca B. Garland, Chief Academic Officer   
Academic Services and Instructional Support

**DATE** December 12, 2013

## **ELIMINATION OF *NCEXTEND2* ASSESSMENTS**

North Carolina currently counts as proficient up to two percent of students assessed using the *NCEXTEND2* alternate assessments aligned to modified academic achievement standards (AA-MAS). Under existing federal regulations, North Carolina has been allowed to develop alternate assessments aligned to modified academic achievement standards for some students with disabilities and to use the results of these assessments for accountability purposes under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

However, the U.S. Department of Education (USED) has proposed to amend regulations governing Title I, Part A of ESEA to no longer authorize a state, in satisfying ESEA accountability requirements, to define modified academic achievement standards and develop alternate assessments based on modified academic achievement standards. Under the USED's proposed regulations, students with disabilities who have been taking AA-MAS will transition to college and career ready standards and general assessments that are aligned to those standards and accessible to all students. Under the proposed regulations, a state administering alternate assessments based on modified academic achievement standards can no longer administer such assessments after the 2013–14 school year.

In 2011, the federal government provided the opportunity for states to request flexibility from some of the ESEA accountability requirements. North Carolina is one of several states which received waiver approval, and as a part of the waiver approval, agreed that it would not administer a modified assessment after the 2013–14 school year.

Because of pending USED regulations governing ESEA and ESEA Flexibility requirements, all *NCEXTEND2* assessments will no longer be available effective with the 2014–15 school year. *NCEXTEND1* assessments will continue to be available to students who receive instruction on the North Carolina Extended Content Standards for the Common Core State Standards for

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English Language Arts/Reading and Mathematics and the North Carolina Essential Standards for Science. LEAs/charters are encouraged to share this information locally. The elimination of the **NCEXTEND2** assessments will impact the creation, evaluation, and review of students' Individualized Education Program (IEP) documentation extending into the 2014–15 school year.

RBG/whw

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