



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
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Academic Services and Instructional Support

RBG
AHQ

DATE October 4, 2013

ALTERNATE ASSESSMENTS FOR THE ACT AND ACT PLAN FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

As you are aware, the State Board of Education (SBE) requires all public school students, including traditional, charter, and regional school students, who are enrolled in grade 11 for the first time to take The ACT and all public school students, including traditional, charter, and regional school students, in grade 10 to participate in the ACT Plan. In the 2013 Session, the North Carolina General Assembly passed House Bill 587, which requires the administration of an alternate assessment to The ACT and to the ACT Plan. These alternate assessments are designed for students who (1) exhibit severe and pervasive delays in all areas of conceptual, linguistic, and academic development and in adaptive behaviors, including communication, daily living skills, and self-care, and (2) who are following the extended content standards of the Standard Course of Study as provided in G.S. §115C -81, or are following a course of study that, upon completing high school, may not lead to admission into a college-level course of study resulting in a college degree.

For students with significant cognitive disabilities who meet specific eligibility criteria, the alternate assessments for participation in the ACT Plan are the grade 10 *NCEXTENDI* Alternate Assessments of English II, Math I, and Biology. These assessments are administered during the final ten instructional days of the school year. For students with significant cognitive disabilities who meet specific eligibility criteria, the alternate assessment for participation in The ACT is the *NCEXTENDI* Alternate Assessment at Grade 11. This assessment is administered during The ACT accommodations testing window of March 4–18, 2014. The decision to assess a student on these alternate assessments must be made as part of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process. To determine student participation in the assessment, the eligibility requirements may be found at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/testing/alternateassess/>.

The College and Career Readiness Alternate is a new assessment designed in response to the legislation as a second alternate assessment to participation in The ACT. Pilot testing for the

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College and Career Readiness Alternate will occur simultaneously with The ACT accommodations testing window of March 4–18, 2014. The decision to assess a student on this alternate assessment must be made as part of the IEP process. To determine student participation in this assessment, the eligibility requirements may be found at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/testing/alternateassess/>. Pilot testing for the ACT Plan alternate assessment for students with severe and pervasive delays who are following a course of study that may not lead to admission into a college-level course of study (excluding those instructed on the extended content standards) shall occur simultaneously with the ACT Plan administration during the 2014–15 school year.

Please share this information locally. If you have questions or need further clarification regarding information contained within this memo, please contact your Regional Accountability Coordinator.

RBG/AHQ:nc

c: June St. Clair Atkinson, State Superintendent
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