



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Thomas R. Bice
State Superintendent of Education

July 12, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education
FROM: Thomas R. Bice *TRB*
 State Superintendent of Education
RE: Revisions to 2013-2014 Testing Program and Testing Dates

The testing program and dates for statewide testing were provided in a January 22, 2013, memorandum for your convenience in building 2013-2014 testing calendars. However, budgetary constraints require that changes be made. Please note that **some testing dates have changed** since the January memorandum. Please note the following changes.

1. On April 11, 2013, the State Board of Education adopted the *ACT Aspire* assessment to replace the *Alabama Reading and Mathematics Test*⁺ (ARMT⁺) in Grades 3-8 in reading and mathematics. The number of days needed for testing *ACT Aspire* has been expanded in order to accommodate online testing and many requests we received asking to move testing for Grades 3-8 back to the original testing time. The new dates will accommodate those who wish to test early, those who wish to test late, and those who wish to test online.
2. We will revert back to the original name for the *Alabama Science Assessment* (ASA) given in Grades 5 and 7 (formerly part of the ARMT⁺) since the ARMT⁺ will no longer be administered in reading and mathematics. Please note that this is **not a new science assessment**, but just a change in the name.
3. *EXPLORE* and *PLAN* will still be administered in Grades 8 and 10, respectively, as originally scheduled.
4. The *ACT* will be administered to all eleventh graders in 2013-2014. However, writing will **not** be a part of the assessment as originally announced.
5. Implementations of some of the QualityCore end-of-course assessments have been delayed. Please note that only English 10 and Algebra I will be administered in 2013-2014.

The revised 2013-2014 Testing Dates and a revised Alabama College- and Career-Ready Assessment System Timeline are attached for your convenience. Please consider this information in building your testing calendars. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Susan Beard, Student Assessment, at (334) 242-8038 or sbeard@alsde.edu.

TRB/GT
 Attachments
 cc: City and County System Test Coordinators
 FY13-2065

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2013 - 2014 TESTING DATES

<u>TEST</u>	<u>TESTING PERIOD</u>	<u>DAYS NEEDED FOR TESTING</u>
<i>Alabama High School Graduation Exam (AHSGE)</i>	July 8 – 12, 2013	5 days
<i>Alabama High School Graduation Exam (AHSGE)</i>	September 16 – 20, 2013	5 days
<i>EXPLORE</i>	October 16 – 23, 2013	1 day
<i>PLAN</i>	October 16 – 23, 2013	1 day
<i>Alabama High School Graduation Exam (AHSGE)</i>	December 2 – 6, 2013	5 days
End-of-course tests (block schedule)	Within last 4 weeks of term	1 day each
English 9 Algebra I Biology U.S. History		
English 10 Geometry Chemistry		
English 11 Algebra II		
<i>Alabama High School Graduation Exam (AHSGE)</i>	March 17 – 21, 2014	5 days
<i>ACCESS for ELLs</i>	March 24 – May 2, 2014	2–3 days
<i>Alternate ACCESS for ELLs</i>	March 24 – May 2, 2014	2–3 days
<i>Alabama Alternate Assessment (AAA)</i>	April 14 – May 2, 2014	1 day
<i>ACT Plus Writing</i>	April 23, 2014	1 day
<i>ACT Plus Writing Makeup</i>	May 7, 2014	1 day
<i>ACT Aspire</i>	April 28 – May 23, 2014	2 days
<i>Alabama Science Assessment (ASA)</i>	April 28 – May 23, 2014	1 day
End-of-course tests	Within last 4 weeks of term	1 day each
English 9 Algebra I Biology U.S. History		
English 10 Geometry Chemistry		
English 11 Algebra II		

Bold type indicates change/addition from January 22, 2013, memorandum.
Strikethrough indicates deletion from January 22, 2013, memorandum.

Alabama College- and Career-Ready Assessment System Timeline for Implementation

School Year	Grades K-2	Grades 3-8	Grades 8-12	
			QualityCore End-of-Course Assessments	College- and Career-Ready Assessments
2012-13	Formative/Interim/ Benchmark Assessments (LEA Determined)	ARMT ⁺ (Grades 3-8)	English 9 English 10 Algebra I Geometry (AHSGE Grades 11-12)	EXPLORE (Grade 8) PLAN (Grade 10)
2013-14	Formative/Interim/ Benchmark Assessments (LEA Determined)	ACT Aspire (Grades 3-8) Reading and Math Alabama Science Assessment formerly part of ARMT ⁺ (Grades 5 and 7)	English 10 Algebra I (AHSGE Grade 12)	EXPLORE (Grade 8) PLAN (Grade 10) ACT (Grade 11)
2014-15	Formative/Interim/ Benchmark Assessments (LEA Determined)	ACT Aspire (Grades 3-8) Reading and Math Alabama Science Assessment formerly part of ARMT ⁺ (Grades 5 and 7)	English 10 Algebra I Others To Be Determined	EXPLORE (Grade 8) PLAN (Grade 10) ACT Plus Writing (Grade 11) WorkKeys (Grade 12)
2015-16	Formative/Interim/ Benchmark Assessments (LEA Determined)	ACT Aspire (Grades 3-8) Reading and Math ACT Aspire (Grades 5 and 7) Science	English 10 Algebra I Others To Be Determined	ACT Aspire (Grade 10) ACT Plus Writing (Grade 11) WorkKeys (Grade 12)

NOTES: Revised alternate assessments to be administered in Grades 3-12 in English language arts and mathematics in 2014-15 and in science in 2015-16. State-provided formative/interim/benchmark assessments aligned to college- and career-ready standards are available for Grades K-12 at no cost to LEAs.