

TO: District Superintendents, School Principals, District Testing Coordinators, Special Education Directors

FROM: Kirsten Baesler, State Superintendent

SUBJECT: Forthcoming release of final NDSA student results;
Plans for the 2015-16 NDSA administration

DATE: January 8, 2016

Reporting 2014-15 NDSA Results

Final preparations are underway for the shipment and arrival of paper and electronic reports generated from the spring 2015 NDSA test administration. Measured Progress, our state NDSA contractor, is preparing to ship to all school district central offices paper NDSA reports for all students, including

- printed reports whose initial results have been electronically posted previously in September,
- paper-and-pencil testing results,
- partial, adaptive-only administered test results, and
- incomplete tests.

Partial and incomplete assessments, whose online tests were not sufficiently completed to meet optimal specifications, have required special processing, using reputable scoring and reporting procedures. Paper-and-pencil, partial, and incomplete assessments will be reported on specially formatted reports, providing context and commentary regarding the meaning of the results.

Measured Progress is also preparing for distribution, electronic NDSA summary files, similar to the historical assessment results files districts have received in previous test administrations. These electronic files will provide school personnel with a complete record of student demographic, test administration status and accommodations, and achievement results.

Delays in reporting have resulted in the unique processing of results to ensure that all assessments, especially those impacted by certain testing disruptions, could be optimally captured, classified, scored, and validated. Measured Progress will provide a detailed summary of the reports, both paper and electronic, shortly.

Plans for the 2015-16 NDSA Administration

To provide students, teachers and administrators with a secure and stable testing environment for the 2015-16 NDSA test administration, Measured Progress, in collaboration with the Department of Public Instruction, is moving to replace the Smarter Balanced Open Source System, which was used in last year's assessment and is undergoing necessary enhancements by Smarter Balanced, with an established, proven, and stable testing platform. This platform was used previously in the Smarter Balanced field test and again last year to deliver online Smarter Balanced assessments in multiple large states. While we believe that the Smarter Balanced open source platform, when design enhancements are complete and certified, will provide a viable means of delivering the assessment in the future, using an established platform this year will ensure that you and your students have a dependable and supportive testing experience. More information will be forthcoming detailing preparations for this year's testing period.

Thank you for your patience and attention as we implement these plans.