



Summative Assessment Flexibilities for 2021

Monitoring and measuring student learning is an essential part of the instructional cycle and ensures all students learn at high levels. Student assessment results provide insight that allows educators to adjust instructional practices and school leaders to improve programs. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the traditional assessment process for the 2020-2021 school year. In response, the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has provided additional support for districts to assess students. The Student Assessment Unit has worked with districts to support communication with families regarding testing options available to meet the individual needs of students. DESE values the partnership between schools and families and has offered several flexibilities essential to administering the assessments amidst the pandemic.

The following provisions are available across **all assessments**:

ACT Aspire: *Summative required for all students in grades 3-10 for English, math, reading, science and writing*

Dynamic Learning Maps: *Alternate assessment for students with most significant cognitive disabilities*

ELPA21: *English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA21)*

K-2 Assessments: *Required to be administered for K-2 in literacy and mathematics*

- Provisions for student testing at school during non-traditional hours
- Provisions for assessing onsite/blended and remote students as separate cohorts (i.e., the on-site/blended grade-level cohort and the remote grade-level can be tested on-site on separate dates and times)

The following additional provisions are available for these **specific assessments**:

ACT Aspire: *Summative required for all students in grades 3-10 for English, math, reading, science and writing*

ELPA21: *English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA21)*

K-2 Assessments: *Required to be administered for K-2 in literacy and mathematics*

- Expanded testing window by two weeks to support safety precautions:
 - ELPA21: January 25 - March 19
 - ACT Aspire: April 5 - May 21
 - K-2:
 - Istation: April 1 - May 14
 - Curriculum Associates, NWEA, and Renaissance: April 12 - May 21
- Flexible testing locations such as community/civic centers to provide adequate spacing
- While not recommended, districts have the flexibility to administer the complete battery of tests to remote students in one day with appropriate breaks to accommodate family schedules.