KDE has released guidance concerning state testing this spring. Because the U.S. Department of Education (USED) will not grant waivers on statewide testing for public school students, KDE's Office of Assessment and Accountability (OAA) is preparing for the in-person administration of state assessments. It takes time to plan and prepare for spring testing. The KDE guidance includes this statement that we need to keep in mind moving forward: **"Please note there are many unknowns and the situation is fluid. This guidance could change as the pandemic unfolds. The KDE awaits further guidance, directions or waivers offered by USED on Spring 2021 assessments. As this dynamic situation evolves, the KDE will change and adapt as needed and will seek state or federal flexibilities or waivers."**

For Marion County Schools, our #1 focus continues to be the health and safety of our students, staff, and community. State Spring Testing is a GO! We must also keep in mind that TESTING and ACCOUNTABILITY are different. We are **required** to test, but not have accountability— using the data formatively to help determine student needs and next steps. They are working on developing more detailed reporting of results. According to the state guidance, "The most important reason for administering state assessments this spring is to gain a clearer picture of the pandemic's impact on student learning, including for those most vulnerable groups….The assessment results can help determine if students are meeting academic expectations, identify holes in student learning, areas where supports or assistance are needed and identify gaps among different student groups." Further, because every district uses it's own local measures (iReady, MAP, etc.) state assessments are the only *common* measure they can use to get a read on where we are with learning statewide.

Please keep in mind this is still subject to change, but here are some key bullet points about the current KDE guidance:

- All assessment administrations should follow the [Guidance on Safety Expectations and Best Practices for Kentucky Schools](#) and the most current health guidelines at the time of testing.
- Assessments will be given online using TestNav, the same online tool used for the field test last winter (other than the Alternate K-PREP which has a different format). The student and proctor experience will look very similar to what we experienced last winter.
- We are to make a "reasonable, dedicated effort" to assess all students. This includes in-person learners, but also includes bringing in small groups of virtual learners.
    - https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1HAOu3rM4loccFA0TJA69svCu8aaeJ1QljgJlup1ilgI/edit?usp=sharing

- Remote proctoring with students taking tests at home without a trained proctor physically present is not an option.
- Content tests will take place in the same grade levels as usual, but the length has been reduced. Here is the [times and items chart](#) for further detail but generally speaking each test is 60 minutes with the exception of on-demand writing.
- Social Studies will be given as a field test instead of a live test (grades 5, 8, 11).
- A field test on Editing & Mechanics was originally scheduled for this year, but it has been delayed to 21-22.

The testing window is the last 14 instructional days, which begins Friday May 7 on our current calendar. Usually, we have to test in 5 consecutive days within that window, but this year we can use as many days as needed during the last 14 instructional days.

NEW KDE TOOLS & RESOURCES:

1. NEW Tutorial & Practice Test link: The tutorials here are the same as we saw last winter, but the practice test functionality is much improved.

It's grade level specific now

There are scoring guides and rubrics

There are accommodated forms so you can practice with the same accommodation tools students may have according to their IEP, PSP, or 504 plans. Text to speech is a new feature this year. (Accommodated math practice tests are coming soon, but other content areas are here now.)

The practice items represent the variety of item types students may see on the real assessment, but they are NOT representative of the length of the full test or how many of each type of item students may see.

Editing & mechanics is included in the link, but will *not* be part of Spring 2021 testing.

No sign-in is required and no GUEST name is needed. Just click START to begin.

Students can use the same link above to complete the tutorial and practice tests, to help familiarize themselves with how the TestNav program works.

NEW THIS YEAR: The program will score the student practice test multiple choice items and give students the option to print out the results and their written responses. It does *not* save their results, so if teachers want to see student results and responses you have to tell students to print or submit screen shots to you before they close the program. Student written responses can then be scored by hand using the answer key & rubrics provided.

For math, students will not be allowed to use a handheld calculator. They are only allowed to use the calculator in this program. The tutorials and practice test will help them practice with the calculator, but the Desmos calculator embedded in the program is available for use any time with these links: Desmos Four Function Calculator (grades 3-5) ; Desmos Scientific Calculator (grades 6-8, 10) ; Desmos Graphing Calculator (grade 10).

2. NEW Science Released Items for grades 4, 7, 11: These are paper-pencil released items from prior K-PREP administrations. Even though it's not in an online format, it still gives you examples of the style of questions within the science assessment.

Again, let's keep in mind testing and accountability are still subject to change. This is a fluid situation. The information KDE has released gives us a better idea of what to expect if we have to move forward with testing this spring. As soon as we have any further information I will pass that on.