

# Participation in Statewide Summative Assessments of ELA, Mathematics, and Science

## Participation Requirements

All students in eligible grade levels are required to participate in statewide summative assessments. This includes participating in the general assessments with or without accommodations/designated supports, and also participating in the alternate assessments (for students with significant cognitive disabilities).

Students in eligible grade levels are required to participate in statewide summative assessments included in the current ESSA State Plan (i.e., assessments of ELA, Math, and Science).

- ELA assessments are provided for Grades 3-9
- Math assessments are provided for Grades 3-9
- Science assessments are provided for Grades 5, 8, and 11

The state must account for the following students when reporting out assessment data:

- Every publicly funded student enrolled in a Vermont public school
- Every privately funded student enrolled in a Vermont public school
- Every student enrolled in an independent school located in Vermont whose tuition is publicly funded

Exceptions to the requirements prescribed by the United States Department of Education ([ESSA § 1111\(b\)\(2\)](#)) include:

- English Learners who enrolled in a U.S. school for the first time within the last 12 months prior to the beginning of testing window (Note: this exemption applies for ELA only, not Math or Science) (See [Vermont Smarter Balanced Test Administration Manual, Page 8](#))
- Students who experience a significant medical emergency and are eligible for a [medical exemption](#)
- Students who are newly enrolled in a Vermont school from out of state after May 15, 2021 are not required to be tested

Please note, there is no “opt-out” provision for statewide summative assessment participation in Vermont. That is to say, participation is not optional for students required to assess under [ESSA](#).

## Participation of Transferring Students

If a student transfers into a Vermont school after May 15<sup>th</sup>, from within Vermont or from out of state, the school where the student is newly enrolled is not required to assess the student.

If a student has transferred from one Vermont school to another Vermont school before May 15<sup>th</sup> and has partially completed an assessment, the new school is able to add that student's into TIDE and continue testing that student where they left off at the previous school. The students test completion and results will follow that student even if a test has been started and not completed at the previous school.

### **Addressing Non-Participation**

If a student eligible for statewide assessment does not participate in testing (and is not exempt), he/she/they will not receive a score for that test. In terms of both reporting and accountability, there are possible consequences for non-participation.

#### **Consequences related to reporting may include:**

- No score reported for the student, and/or

Please note that this school year (2020-2021), score and participation data will be reported federally and publicly, regardless of whether [accountability is waived](#) or not.

#### **Consequences related to accountability may include:**

- Student not included in computation of accountability metrics
- Participation rate for school or district below 95% threshold
  - If the school or district's participation rate is less than 95% of eligible students, the average scale score for the school or district will be weighted by the participation rate (e.g., scale score \* participation rate).

Please note that this school year (2020-2021), if [accountability is waived](#), accountability determinations will not be calculated (including the 95% participation adjustment).

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*Note: At this time (04/06/2021), Vermont's application for waiving accountability and school identification for SY21 is [out for public comment](#).*

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Please contact Amanda Gorham ([amanda.gorham@vermont.gov](mailto:amanda.gorham@vermont.gov)) for questions related to statewide summative assessment participation policies.