STATE OF ALABAMA
# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Thomas R. Bice
State Superintendent of Education

Alabama State Board of Education

Governor Robert Bentley President

Matthew S. Brown, J.D. District I

Betty Peters District II

Stephanie Bell District III

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D. District IV President Pro Tem

Ella B. Bell District V

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D. District VI

Jeff Newman District VII Vice President

Mary Scott Hunter, J.D. District VIII

Thomas R. Bice, Ed.D. Secretary and Executive Officer

August 19, 2015

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** City and County Superintendents of Education

**FROM:** Thomas R. Bice TRB
State Superintendent of Education

**RE:** Testing Calendar for 2015-2016

The dates for the 2015-2016 statewide assessment program have been finalized and are being provided for your convenience in scheduling tests. Please note the following changes and reminders:

1. *ACT QualityCore End-of-Course Assessments* for English 10 and Algebra I will be optional in 2015-2016. Districts must notify the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) by September 11, 2015, of their intentions to participate in these assessments. The ALSDE will ONLY pay for the cost of students enrolled in one or both of these courses for credit.
2. The use of *ACT QualityCore End-of-Course Assessments* in the 12 subjects offered by ACT will be allowed for credit advancement; however, students tested with these assessments for credit advancement may NOT test during the state testing windows (December 1 through February 1 and April 1 through June 1). The school or district will be responsible for costs associated with the administration of the assessments for these students.
3. At the request of school officials, December dates have been added to the *ACT WorkKeys* window (Internet Version only). This will allow seniors who are graduating first semester an opportunity to test. Dates for the paper/pencil version of *ACT WorkKeys* were set by ACT and cannot be changed.
4. With the phaseout of *ACT Plan,* students in Grade 10 will take all subject tests of *ACT Aspire* in spring 2016.
5. *ACT Aspire* Reading and Mathematics are required for students in Grades 3-8. For students in Grades 5 and 7, *ACT Aspire* Science is also required. Although the Science (excluding Grades 5 and 7), English, and Writing are optional, supplemental scores such as STEM, English Language Arts, and Progress Toward Career Readiness require the administration of all subject tests.
6. Visit http://www.act.org/actnext/ for a preview of what will be new with the *ACT Plus Writing* in spring 2016.

More information will be provided at the System Test Coordinator Workshop on August 31 and September 1, 2015. If you have questions concerning the 2015-2016 calendar, contact Mrs. Susan Beard, Student Assessment Section, at (334) 242-8038 or sbeard@alsde.edu.

TRB/RWM/SWB

Attachment

cc: City and County System Test Coordinators

**FY15-2098**

Alabama State Department of Education
Revised July 22, 2015

# 2015-2016 TESTING DATES

| TEST | DEADLINE/TEST DATE TESTING PERIOD | DAYS NEEDED FOR TESTING |
|---|---|---|
| *ACT QualityCore End-of-Course Assessments* (Block Schedule)[1] | December 1 – End of First Term | 1–2 days[1] |
| *ACT WorkKeys* Internet Version | December 1 – February 29, 2016 | 1 Day[2] |
| *ACT WorkKeys* Paper/Pencil Test | February 11, 2016 | 1 Day[3] |
| *ACT WorkKeys* Paper/Pencil Make-Up Test | February 25, 2016 | 1 Day[3] |
| *ACT WorkKeys* Paper/Pencil with Accommodations | February 11 – February 25, 2016 | IEP/504 Decision[4] |
| *NAEP* (Select Schools and Grades Only) | January 25 – March 4, 2016 | 1 Day |
| *ACCESS 2.0* | February 1 – April 1, 2016 | 2–3 Days |
| *Alternate ACCESS for ELLs* | February 1 – April 1, 2016 | 2–3 Days |
| *ACT Aspire* Paper/Pencil (Grades 3-8 and 10) | April 4 – April 22, 2016 | 1–5 Days[5] |
| *ACT Aspire* Computer-Based (Grades 3-8 and 10) | April 4 – May 13, 2016 | 1–5 Days[5] |
| *ACT Plus Writing* – Pre-Test Session[6] | Prior to Test Date | 1 Day[6] |
| *ACT Plus Writing* Paper/Pencil[6] | April 19, 2016 | 1 Day[6] |
| *ACT Plus Writing* Paper/Pencil Make-up Test[6] | May 3, 2016 | 1 Day[6] |
| *ACT Plus Writing* with Accommodations Paper/Pencil[7] | April 19 – May 3, 2016 | ACT Decision[7] |
| *ACT Plus Writing* Online Format[6] | April 19 – May 3, 2016[8] | 1 Day[6] |
| *Alabama Alternate Assessment* (AAA) Online Collection | May 6, 2016 (Deadline) | Throughout Year[9] |
| *ACT QualityCore End-of-Course Assessments*[1] | Within Last 4 Weeks of Term | 1–2 Days[1] |

[1]*ACT QualityCore End-of-Course Assessments* English 10 and Algebra I will be optional in 2015-2016. Each test is composed of two 45-minute sessions. These sessions may be completed in one day or on two separate days. Students tested with these assessments for course advancement may NOT test during the state window.

[2]With the ACT *WorkKeys* Internet Version, the three subtests may be administered in one session or in three separate sessions. The pre-test session must be completed prior to the administration of the first subtest either on the morning of the test or on a separate day.

[3]The pre-test sessions of the *ACT WorkKeys* paper/pencil test must be completed prior to the administration of the test; this session may be conducted on the morning of the test or on a separate day. Timed testing must begin no later than 9 a.m.

[4]The number of days allowed for *ACT WorkKeys* with Accommodations is determined by the IEP Team or 504 Committee.

[5] Schools may administer all subject tests of the *ACT Aspire* in one session or they may administer the subject tests in separate sessions at any time during the testing window.

[6]The pre-test sessions of the *ACT Plus Writing* **must** be completed on a SEPARATE day PRIOR to the administration of the test. Although the pre-test session may be administered at any time on a day prior to the test administration, timed testing for the *ACT Plus Writing* must begin no later than 9 a.m. This is true for paper/pencil and online formats.

[7]The number of days allowed for the *ACT Plus Writing* with Accommodations is determined by ACT based on each student's IEP or 504 Plan.

[8]A ten-day window is allowed for the *ACT Plus Writing* Online Format. Since a different form of the test is given each day, schools may choose to test on more than one date during the online window. A student must complete a test in one day.

[9]All evidence for the AAA, which is collected and posted throughout the school year, must be submitted online by 5 p.m. May 6, 2016.

Dates are subject to change