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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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September 1, 2016

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Philip C. Cleveland PCC
Interim State Superintendent of Education

RE: Revised Testing Dates for 2016-2017

The dates for the 2016-2017 Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) statewide assessment program have been updated and are being provided for your convenience in scheduling tests. Please note the following changes and reminders:

1. For districts administering the paper format of the *ACT with Writing* in spring 2017, ACT, Inc., will allow each district to select an initial test date and a make-up test date from the options in the chart below. Districts selecting the early March 21 date as their initial test date will decide during fall establishment whether to make up tests on April 19 or May 3. They will not be allowed two make-up dates; however, schools choosing to make up all tests for students who missed the initial test date with the online format will have the entire online window for make-up testing.

Options for Schools Administering Paper Format of *ACT with Writing*		
Option	**Initial Test Date**	**Make-up Test Date**
Option 1	March 21, 2017	April 19, 2017*
Option 2	March 21, 2017	May 3, 2017*
Option 3	April 19, 2017	May 3, 2017*
***Schools may choose the online format to make-up tests for all students who missed the initial paper test date. The online window is April 19-May 3, 2017.**		

2. **In Spring 2017, schools will not be limited to one mode of testing for the *ACT with Writing*.** Schools may choose both paper and online formats. The online window is April 19-May 3, 2017.
3. **In an effort to receive test scores in the *ACT Aspire* portal by May 31, the Alabama State Department of Education has revised the online testing window for spring 2017.** The online window for *ACT Aspire* is April 3-28, 2017. The window of April 3-21, 2017, for paper testing will not change. 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 test window.
4. With the adoption of the *2015 Alabama Extended Standards in Reading,* the *2015 Alabama Extended Standards in Mathematics,* and the *2016 Alabama Extended Standards in Science,* the *Alabama Alternate Assessment* (AAA) has been revised. At the recommendation of the Alabama Student Assessment Task Force, the ALSDE will transition from a portfolio assessment to a standardized performance task assessment. **The 2017 AAA will be administered as a fully operational field test.** The window for the AAA is April 3-May 12, 2017.

Please review the 2016-2017 Testing Dates. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Rebecca W. Mims, Student Assessment Section, at (334) 242-8038.

PCC/RWM

Attachment
cc: City and County System Test Coordinators
FY16-2102

Alabama State Department of Education
Revised August 2016

2016-2017 TESTING DATES*

Tests	Testing Dates
ACT QualityCore End-of-Course Assessments (Block Schedule)[1]	December 1, 2016 – End of First Term
ACT WorkKeys Online Testing[2]	December 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017
ACT WorkKeys Paper Testing[3]	February 7, 2017
ACT WorkKeys Paper Testing - Make-Up	February 21, 2017
ACT WorkKeys Paper Testing with Accommodations[4]	February 7 – February 21, 2017
NAEP (Select Schools and Grades Only)	January 30 – March 10, 2017
ACCESS 2.0	February 6 – April 7, 2017
Alternate ACCESS for ELLs	February 6 – April 7, 2017
ACT Aspire Paper Testing (Grades 3-8 and 10)[5]	April 3 – April 21, 2017
ACT Aspire Online Testing (Grades 3-8 and 10)[5]	April 3 – April 28, 2017
ACT with Writing – Pre-Test Session[6]	Prior to Test Date
ACT with Writing Paper Testing Option 1[7]	March 21, 2017
ACT with Writing Paper Testing Option 2[7]	April 19, 2017
ACT with Writing Paper Testing with Accommodations[8]	April 19 – May 3, 2017
ACT with Writing Online Format[9]	April 19 – May 3, 2017
ACT with Writing Paper Testing - Make-up Option 1[7]	April 19, 2017
ACT with Writing Paper Testing - Make-up Option 2[7]	May 3, 2017
Alabama Alternate Assessment (AAA)[10]	April 3 – May 12, 2017
ACT QualityCore End-of-Course Assessments[1]	Within Last 4 Weeks of Term

[1] *ACT QualityCore End-of-Course Assessments* English 9 or 10 and Algebra I are optional. 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 credit advancement may NOT test during the state window.

[2] With ACT *WorkKeys* Online Testing, the three subtests may be administered in one session or in three separate sessions.

[3] The pre-test sessions of the *ACT WorkKeys* Paper Testing 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] Accommodations for *ACT WorkKeys* are determined by the IEP Team or 504 Committee.

[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 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. 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 with 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 with Writing* must begin no later than 9 AM. This is true for both Paper and Online Testing.

[7] In 2016-2017, a district may choose one of two options for the initial test date for *ACT with Writing* Paper Testing. Please note that districts that choose Option 1 of March 21 as the **initial test date** must select **only** one paper make-up date— April 19 or May 3—from the two options. Districts that choose Option 2 of April 19 for the **initial test date** must select May 3 for their paper make-up test date. For the first time, schools will be allowed to administer both paper and online formats. With this alternative, schools may choose to administer online tests for all students who missed the paper test, eliminating the need for ordering and administering paper make-up tests.

[8] ACT must approve all accommodations on the *ACT with Writing.* Documentation must be submitted directly to ACT.

[9] A window is allowed for the *ACT with Writing* Online Testing. 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 the test in one day**. Schools may choose online testing to administer make-up tests for students who were originally scheduled for paper tests.

[10] With the revised extended standards, ALSDE will transition from a portfolio assessment to a standardized task performance assessment in 2017. This test will be administered as an operational field test in 2017.

*Dates Are Subject to Change