**Spring 2020 Assessment and Accountability Updates**

 We are pleased to announce that our request for the assessment and accountability waiver has

been approved by the U.S. Department of Education and is supported by the State Board of

Education.

For spring 2020, South Carolina will not administer any of the following assessment programs:

• SC READY (English language arts and mathematics in grades 3–8);

• SCPASS (science in grades 4 and 6);

• End-of-Course Examination Program (English, Algebra, Biology, United States History

and the Constitution) the requirement that these examinations count 20 percent has been

waived;

• Prekindergarten assessments – 4-year-old kindergarten (Phonological Awareness

Literacy Screening (PALS Pre-KTM), Individual Growth and Development Indicators

(myIGDIsTM), and Teaching Strategies® GOLD); and

• Alternate Assessments – some students have already taken the alternate assessments.

Districts will receive information for returning those materials.

To the extent possible, districts should administer the following tests in spring 2020. The South

Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is working closely with the vendors of the tests listed

below to identify rescheduled testing dates and to explore innovative approaches (such as testing online), where possible. The SCDE will provide additional information as it becomes available.

Assessments include:

• Grade 10 Pre-ACT, PSAT, and Aspire;

• The ACT or SAT;

• Advanced Placement and Cambridge International Exams; and

• WIN Ready to Work.

Exams for International Baccalaureate courses have been canceled by the vendor.

The following requirements under the Every Students Succeeds Act (ESSA) shall be in place:

• the state’s accountability system, requiring that designations made in fall 2019 remain in

effect for one additional year;

• the English language proficiency assessment is waived;

• the ESSA required 95 percent participation rate on federally-required assessments is

waived;

• the alternate measure of achievement (which is South Carolina’s “Growth” metric on the

report card) is waived;

• the student success or school quality metrics (which in South Carolina is the “Student

Progress” metric, the “Student Engagement” metric, and the “College and Career

Readiness” metric) is waived; and

• certain public reporting requirements are waived.

This flexibility will allow us to focus on addressing this public health pandemic and meeting the

immediate and most important needs of the students and faculty we serve. If you have any

questions about assessments, please contact Elizabeth Jones at ejones@ed.sc.gov. If you have

any questions about the accountability system, please contact John Payne at jrpayne@ed.sc.gov.