



April 20, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The U.S. Department of Education notified California that the state's request for relief from certain federal testing, accountability, and reporting requirements has been granted. In California all school districts will be required to administer the statewide summative assessments except in any instances where it is concluded it is not viable to administer the assessment because of the pandemic. The intent of these accountability waivers is to provide information to parents, educators, and the public about student performance and to help target resources and supports particularly crucial this year due to the COVID pandemic.

Where a statewide summative assessment is not the most viable option, Districts may report results from a different assessment that meets the criteria established by the SBE:

- Aligned with California Common Core State Standards for ELA and mathematics;
- Available to assess students in grades three through eight and grade eleven;
- Uniformly administered across a grade span, school, or district; and
- Provide results that can be reported to parents/guardians, educators about individual students, and to the public by school and by district, and are disaggregated by student group.

Clovis Unified has determined that the use of local assessments is the most viable option for our District in light of the COVID 19 pandemic. The reasons for using local assessments are as followed:

- The limited amount of time and number of students who have accessed in-person instruction on campus
- Multiple pivots in the phases of in-person instruction due to ever-changing COVID 19 guidelines
- Ensuring time upon return for students and staff to learn and adjust to mitigation strategies, take stock of and address trauma, and support immediate social-emotional needs
- The length of time state assessments will take away from classroom instruction
- Local assessments are accessible to ALL students regardless of instructional model
- In some cases, students still in remote learning may not be able to access the state's summative tests because they lack secure browsers on their computers or sufficient bandwidth to meet the demands of the tests
- Data from local assessments provide a more accurate picture of current student learning
- Local assessments are aligned with daily teaching and learning

The local assessments that our District will be administering for both English language arts and mathematics include iReady for elementary and intermediate students, Inspect for high school students (11th grade), and Unique Learning Systems benchmark assessments for special education students who qualify for an alternative state assessment. These local assessments serve to provide valuable information to meet our District's aim of Maximizing Achievement for ALL students.

If you have any questions about testing, please contact your site administrator.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eimear O'Farrell".

Eimear O'Farrell Ed.D.
Superintendent

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