

Descriptor Term:
TESTING AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Descriptor Code:
3.8000

Legal References: G.S. 115C, art. 10A; 115C-47, -81, -174.12(a), -276, -288, -307; State Board of Education Policies GCS-A series; GCS-C series; GCS-N series; 16 N.C.A.C. 6D .0301 – .0302

Cross References:

The board believes that an effective assessment program evaluates the progress of individual students and helps ensure that educational goals and objectives are being met for every student. A testing program also assists in the continued refinement of the instructional program. Every effort shall be made to ensure that the assessment program contributes to the learning process rather than detracts from it. Efforts also shall be made to ensure culture-free or culture-fair tests in order to ensure that measurements are reasonably accurate.

The board directs the superintendent or his/her designee to administer all state required tests using rules and procedures established by N.C. Public Schools. Students not meeting testing standards shall be provided focused intervention and retesting in accordance with legal requirements.

The Accountability Services staff shall be responsible for the development and administration of the testing program. All testing personnel, teachers and school administrators are required to be familiar with and adhere to the Testing Code of Ethics. Failure to follow the code may result in disciplinary sanctions such as termination or revocation of administrative and/or teaching licenses.

The superintendent or designee shall ensure that the time that students spend taking standardized state and local tests is minimized and that the frequency of field testing at a particular school is minimized. Specifically, the superintendent shall ensure the following.

1. schools shall devote no more than two days of instructional time per year to the taking of practice tests that do not have the primary purpose of assessing current student learning;
2. students shall not be subject to field tests or national tests during the two-week period preceding their school's administration of end-of-grade tests, end-of-course tests or regularly scheduled final exams; and
3. no school shall participate in more than two field tests at any one grade level during a school year unless that school volunteers, through a vote of its school improvement team, to participate in an expanded number of field tests.