



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: John R. Payne
Director, Office of Special Education Services

DATE: November 14, 2017

RE: Eleventh Grade Assessments and Students with IEPs

This memorandum provides guidance with respect to students with disabilities on recent legislation that made changes relating to college entrance and career readiness assessments. The legislation amended Section 59-18-325 of the South Carolina Code of Laws so that beginning in the 2017–18 school year, all students in eleventh grade will be offered a choice of college-entrance assessments that will be administered at public expense. The legislation also amended Section 59-18-325 to remove the designation of a specific career-readiness assessment. A copy of the legislation is attached to this memorandum.

For students with individualized education programs (IEPs), IEP teams need to consider college-entrance assessments and career-readiness assessments separately when making decisions about participation in, and accommodations for, the assessments. College-entrance assessments are being offered to all eleventh grade students. Students are not required to take college-entrance assessments. Students may elect to take the ACT or the SAT or neither (or some other assessment if there is one available). IEP teams should discuss student participation in college-entrance assessments at an IEP team meeting, and discuss and document in the IEP necessary accommodations if the student will take one or more of the college entrance assessments. IEP teams should be aware of what accommodations college-entrance assessment vendors allow as non-reportable assessments will not be administered. Links to the ACT and SAT accommodations webpages may be found at:

ACT: <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/state-and-district-solutions/south-carolina.html>

SAT: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/special-circumstances/students-with-disabilities>

Vendor timelines for requesting accommodations are fast approaching. As a result, districts should already be working with students and parents to complete the necessary paperwork for the requests. If an accommodation is not approved by a vendor, the parent and student should be consulted to determine whether the student will still participate in the assessment without the accommodation.

The SC Enrich System will not be amended for this year's assessments to include the SAT in the dropdown menus in the State Assessments section of the IEP. As a result, IEP teams should use the classroom accommodations and ACT accommodations in IEPs, as appropriate, to determine SAT accommodations and to complete the necessary paperwork for requesting accommodations from the SAT assessment vendor. IEP teams may use the district assessment section of the IEP and/or prior written notices (PWNs) to record accommodations for the SAT. IEP teams should make every effort to have the student participate in the IEP team meeting where the discussion about college-entrance assessments occurs.

According to the legislation, a career-readiness assessment will be administered to all students. As such, students are required to take the assessment. For students who meet the Alternate Assessment Eligibility Criteria, the IEP team should determine what alternate career readiness assessment the student will take. An approved list of alternate career readiness assessments is available on the Department's website at <https://ed.sc.gov/tests/assessment-information/testing-swd/sc-alt/alternate-assessment-to-act-workkeys/>. Participation in the alternate assessment should be documented in the student's IEP and the PWN when the IEP is developed. This is consistent with guidance issued in [2016](#).

Section 59-18-325(B)(4) was amended to allow IEP teams to determine that a student will not take either assessment type, college-entrance or career-readiness. It is the guidance of the Office of Special Education Services (OSSES) that to the greatest extent possible, students with disabilities should be administered a career-readiness assessment (standard or alternate) since post-secondary planning that includes employment is a requirement. It should be a very rare case that IEP teams decide not to administer a career-readiness assessment to a student. We estimate that the percentage of students not administered a career readiness assessment as a result of an IEP team decision to be less than 1 percent of the special education population in the state. The SCDE will be reviewing the assessment data and will review, and may monitor, any district whose nonparticipation of students with IEPs is significantly higher than the state-wide percentage.

Should you have any questions regarding how to amend IEPs with respect to eleventh grade assessment accommodations, please contact Peter Keup in the SCDE, OSSES, at pkeup@ed.sc.gov or by calling 803-734-6771. For questions about standard assessment accommodations, contact Nichole Adams in the SCDE, Office of Assessment, at naadams@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-8274. For questions regarding alternate work readiness assessments, contact Jill Christmus in the Office of Assessment at mchristmus@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-8048.

cc: District Testing Coordinators
District Special Education Directors