STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Test Coordinators
Special Education Directors/Coordinators
Instructional Leaders

FROM: Office of Assessment and Standards

DATE: May 1, 2023

RE: 2024 SC READY ELA and English 2 Stand-alone Field Test Notification

This memo provides districts with information about English language arts (ELA) assessments for the 2023-24 school year. The SC READY ELA assessment and EOCEP English 2 *operational* tests will assess the 2015 College- and Career-Ready Standards for English Language Arts.

Field test items on both the SC READY ELA and EOCEP English 2 assessments will measure the 2023 College-and Career-Read Standards for English Language Arts. ELA operational tests, for both assessments, will include embedded field test items as well as a stand-alone writing field test. The embedded field test items will assess 2023 standards that overlap with the 2015 ELA standards. Field testing is important to ensure that items function properly when they are used on operational tests. Students will not receive results from the field test.

All students in grades 3-8, students enrolled in English 2, or students scheduled to take the English 2 EOCEP, will participate in the field test except those who qualify to take the SC Alternate Assessment for students with significant cognitive disabilities. Other stand-alone field test exceptions include suspended students, home school, homebound, and homebased students. Additionally, expelled students, students in group homes, and students placed in residential treatment facilities do not have to participate in the field test. Students enrolled through the Department of Juvenile Justice and Palmetto Unified do not have to participate in the stand-alone field test.

Schools with SC READY ELA waivers approved by the State Board of Education for paper testing must participate in this online field testing.

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The stand-alone field test will include one writing question and will be administered online. All students will be field tested in the online format for SC READY ELA and English 2 except for students with disabilities and multilingual learners who have Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), 504 Plans, or Individualized Language Acquisition Plans (ILAP) specifying an accommodation for a paper administration. Allowable accommodations for these students are discussed below.

Allowable Accommodations (Students with Disabilities and Multilingual Learners)

The standard administration for the SC READY ELA and the EOCEP English 2 writing stand-alone field tests will be through an online administration. One online form will be designated for students with disabilities who must participate with accommodations.

Online accommodations for the SC READY ELA and the EOCEP English 2 writing stand-alone field tests, will include the following:

- Text-to-speech (TTS) for grades 4-8 only, and English 2
- Video Sign Language (VSL)
- Large Print: items will automatically scale online

Customized test materials will include a Braille test booklet and a Large Print test booklet.

Response Option, Scheduling, Setting, Supplemental Materials, and Timing accommodations as outlined in the Test Administration Manuals (TAM) for both SC READY and EOCEP are allowable on the stand-alone writing field test. For multilingual learners, directions from the TAM may be reworded/translated and the use of a word-to-word bilingual dictionary will be allowable.

There will not be a separate oral/signed administration script. For SC READY ELA writing, if students using the above materials also require an oral or signed administration of the test, it will be allowable for TAs to read or sign directly from the student's test booklet.

A paper test booklet of the stand-alone field test will be made available to *only* those students whose IEP/504/ML team determined they cannot meaningfully participate in the standard online administration of the stand-alone field test, even with the allowable accommodations.

The precode file will not be used to determine orders for the materials listed above. Districts or schools will place orders for the above print materials via the **additional materials ordering** process through DRC. Overages will not be allowed.

<u>IEP notification and documentation process for the stand-alone field test</u>

IEP teams who are conducting IEP meetings prior to the stand-alone field test may document participation in the stand-alone field test and appropriate accommodations within the SC Enrich IEP System Assessment Participation section. A sample Notification of Administration letter is

attached to assist LEAs in providing notification of student participation in the stand-alone field test and their accommodations as documented in their current IEP. This notification letter may be used for those students whose current IEP does not indicate participation in stand-alone field assessment, and an IEP meeting will not be held prior to the administration of the stand-alone field test. The Notification letter can be uploaded to the student's file in SC Enrich IEP as a linked attachment to the student's most current IEP.

For questions concerning the SC READY field test administration, contact Susan Creighton screight@ed.sc.gov. For questions concerning the SC READY assessment, contact Wendee Evering waevering@ed.sc.gov. For questions concerning the EOCEP English 2 assessment or the field test administration, contact Kirsten Hural khural@ed.sc.gov.

For questions concerning accommodations or customized materials for the stand-alone field test, contact Angela Blackwell-Smith ablackwellsmith@ed.sc.gov . For questions concerning Multilingual Learners, contact Deann McManus dsmcmanus@ed.sc.gov .

Attachment: Accommodation Notification Template

[District Letterhead]

[Insert Parent Name]
[Insert Parent Contact Information]

Dear [insert/populate parent name]:

RE: Notification of Administration of the ELA Writing Stand-alone Field Test with Accommodations

Students enrolled in grades three through eight and English 2 will participate in the ELA Writing stand-alone field test.

Accommodations will be provided on the stand-alone field test in accordance with your student's current individualized education program (IEP) or 504 Plan. The accommodations your student will be receiving on the stand-alone field test are:

Should you have any questions or if you would like to discuss your child's current assessment accommodations, please contact your student's special education teacher or school principal.