Policy Update

Spring Testing Underway

It has been an unprecedented year, to say the least, which has brought many challenges to your schools, educators, students, and families. We know the continued federal requirement to administer assessments has provided an additional challenge as you look toward finishing the school year and preparing for the next. Thank you for your efforts to meet these requirements and administer Georgia’s assessments with fidelity.

As a reminder, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) has denied Georgia’s request to waive assessments for this year. Therefore, no students are waived or exempted from assessments – whether they are currently learning in-person or virtually. All districts must offer the opportunity to test to all students. Additional information about this spring’s testing requirements, including addressing testing for virtual students, is available in this previously-released FAQ. While assessments are still required, ED did approve Georgia’s request to waive several accountability and school identification requirements for this year. Additional information about testing requirements and the accountability waiver can be found in this previously-released FAQ.

As spring testing is underway, we have unfortunately seen an increase in irregularities and invalidations. It is critical to remember that while GaDOE has provided additional scheduling flexibilities to assist in the safe and appropriate administration of assessments, there are no changes in test security and assessment administration policies and protocols. System test coordinators (STCs), school test coordinators (SchTCs), and test examiners must continue to adhere to all test security and administration protocols. Please ensure that all examiners are thoroughly trained and that system and school test administrators are actively monitoring test administrations. Violations in prescribed policies and protocols can result in invalidation of student scores, referral to the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) for ethics violations, and referral to the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) for investigation and monitoring.
Assessment Update

Additional reminders related to test security and assessment administration policies and protocols are provided in this update, as well as the Special Edition Assessment Update released on April 20. Thank you for your attention and diligence in administering state assessments with fidelity.

Contact: Allison Timberlake, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent for Assessment & Accountability, atimberlake@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-463-6666.

2021-2022 Assessment and Training Calendar Posted

STCs should review and share the 2021-2022 Assessment and Training calendar posted to the For Educators site. The assessment windows have been posted for GKIDS 2.0, Georgia Milestones, GAA 2.0, NAEP, and ACCESS for ELs. Over the next few weeks, the training dates and assessment tasks will be added to the calendar. STCs should expect that all dates related to training will be finalized and entered into the online calendar no later than Tuesday, June 1, so that you may add each to your calendars or share with appropriate colleagues as needed.

Contact: Sandy Greene, Ed.D., Director of Assessment Administration, sgreene@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-656-0478.

Test Development

Test Development Meetings

Thank you again to all districts who nominated educators for our upcoming test development meetings. Initial invitations for all meetings have been sent. If selected educators decline or do not respond, additional invitations will be sent. All applicants are considered alternates until the date of the meeting.

Contact: Jan Blose, Ed.D., Director of Assessment Development, jblose@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-463-6665.

DRC BEACON

End-of-Year Activities

The 2021 DRC BEACON testing window closes on Wednesday, June 30. Districts should ensure that all testing is completed, and all reports are exported before this date. The system will reopen on Monday, August 2 for the 2021-2022 school year. Districts can use BEACON’s computer-adaptive assessments early in the school year to identify gaps in learning and give targeted support for students. BEACON will start the year with an expanded item bank and reports will include an estimate of student performance on Georgia Milestones.

BEACON reporting for 2021-2021 will include historical reports for students who tested in the 2020-2021 school year. If you are new to BEACON, please see the
Assessment Update

May 2021

Resources Page to learn about the program and how to implement in your district.

Contacts:
- Sandy Greene, Ed.D., Director of Assessment Administration, sgreene@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-656-0478.
- Taiesha Adams, Ed.D., Assessment Specialist, taadams@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-656-5975.
- Joe Blessing, Program Manager, jblessing@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-232-1208.

Formative Instructional Practices (FIP)

Final FIP Webinar for Curriculum Directors
The final FIP webinar for Curriculum Directors through the GaDOE and GACIS Partnership will be Tuesday, May 18 at 10 a.m. The topic is Organizing to Help Teachers Facilitate Student Ownership of Learning.

Helping students develop ownership for their learning is one of the four pillars of FIP. Teachers often need support to reflect on the kinds of foundational skills that need to be taught before grouping students to work as peers to support others and their own learning. This webinar will identify several foundational skills that leaders can share with teachers that can build capacity to plan for student ownership of learning.

Webinar notifications and links to participate are sent from GACIS. Recordings and handouts are available the day after the live webinar.

Contact: Kelli Harris-Wright, Assessment Specialist, kharris-wright@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-463-5047.

GKIDS 2.0 and GKIDS Readiness Check

End-of-Year Activities
Teachers should be instructing, assessing, and collecting performance data in a significant number of the skills in the required domains of Math, ELA, Approaches to Learning, and Social/Personal Interaction.

Data should be entered in the GKIDS platform by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, May 17 to be included in the state generated end-of-year reports.

Teachers may continue to enter student data as close as possible to their last day of school in order to generate the individual student reports. The GKIDS platform will be open for data entry until 11:59 p.m. on Friday, June 11.

Contact: Bobbie Bable, Assessment Specialist, bbable@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-657-6168.

Keenville

We are interested in learning how Keenville is currently being utilized so we can plan for future development activities. We are asking teachers and leaders who work with first and second grade students to share their experiences with us by completing a short survey. Note that we are seeking responses from all educators who work with first and second grade students – whether or not they currently utilize Keenville.

Survey questions are customized by role (e.g., teacher, school leader, district leader) so the length of the survey will vary. However, we estimate that it will not take more than 5-10 minutes to complete.

The survey may be accessed using the link provided below, and will remain available through Friday, May 7.

Link to Keenville Survey

Don’t forget that the Keenville Student Progress Report will be final on Saturday, May 15. Students may continue to play Keenville games through Wednesday, June 30 and results will populate to the dashboard. These results, however, will not transfer to the Student Progress Report.

Also, the current Keenville training course in SLDS will close on Wednesday, June 30. A new training course for the 2021-2022 school year will be available in late July.

Contact: Lisa Hardman, Assessment Specialist, lhardman@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-651-9405.
**ACCESS for ELLs 2.0**

**Data Validation in WIDA AMS**

Pre-reporting data validation closes Friday, May 7. Data validation is a process that identifies potential student demographic and accommodation mistakes on test reports. STCs should work with SchTCs and ESOL directors to take corrective action before ACCESS for ELLs reports and data files are published. Please be reminded that only the following student records will appear in data validation:

- Students who have attempted one or more online domains.
- Students who tested with labeled (pre-ID or district/school) booklet returned on time according to your state’s return deadline.
- Students who have a Do Not Score code marked for one or more domains.

DRC has received an increased number of calls from LEAs wondering why students who did not test this year do not appear in their data validation records. WIDA and DRC believe this is due to an increased number of students who were not tested due to COVID-19. DRC has updated the [WIDA AMS User Guide Supplement for Data Validation](#) to indicate that a student must have a record of having been tested to appear in data validation.

**Materials Return**

ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLS materials should have been shipped back to DRC by or on Friday, April 2.

Please use the following steps to access WIDA AMS to check to see if you have any missing materials for your district/school:

1. Log into [WIDA AMS](#).
2. Click on All Applications > Materials > Return Materials Receipt Report.
3. Select the Administration and District (select the School, if applicable).
4. Click on Show.

Please securely shred the following materials once score reports have been received:

- Packing Lists
- Security Checklists

**Meeting Details**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Date and Time</th>
<th>Meeting Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session #1 – Wednesday, April 28 at 3 p.m.</td>
<td>Microsoft Teams meeting <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a> Or call in (audio only) +1 470-440-6149,,470591676# Conference ID: 470 591 676#</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session #2 – Tuesday, May 11 at 3 p.m.</td>
<td>Microsoft Teams meeting <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a> Or call in (audio only) +1 470-440-6149,,125669228# Conference ID: 125 669 228#</td>
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<td>Session #3 – Wednesday, June 9 @ 2 p.m.</td>
<td>Microsoft Teams meeting <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a> Or call in (audio only) +1 470-440-6149,,124414033# Conference ID: 124 414 033#</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Non-Disclosure and User Agreement**

- State Specific Directions
- District and School Test Coordinator Manual
- Test Administrator Manual
- School box range sheet
- Grades 4-12 Test Administrator’s Scripts
- Any unused labels

**DRC Planned Outage**

A planned system outage affecting WIDA AMS will take place Saturday, May 1 at 12 noon ET to Sunday, May 2 at 12 noon ET. WIDA and DRC apologize for any inconvenience caused by this routine maintenance.

**EL Entrance Procedures**

EL Entrance Procedures using the new WIDA Screener for Kindergarten (& 1st Semester Grade 1) were clarified during the ESOL Directors’ Munch & Learn webinar on Wednesday, April 14. If you would like to listen to the recording, please go to the [ESOL Directors’ Munch & Learn website](#).

**GaDOE Open Office Hours**

GaDOE is offering the following [four open office hours sessions](#) collaboratively hosted by Assessment, ESOL, Special Education, and Title IIIA. Sessions are open to Special Education personnel, STCs, and ESOL personnel:
**Georgia Milestones**

**Special Edition Newsletter**

A Special Edition of the Assessment Update has been posted to the *For Educators* site. This special edition includes some specific reminders about test tickets, secure test materials, monitoring test accommodations, and the monitoring of student status for the spring End-of-Grade and End-of-Course assessments. These are highlights of important tasks and reminders which may prevent irregularities and potential invalidations.

**Keyboard Issues in INSIGHT**

Students can run into issues where sticky keys are enabled causing students to be “kicked out” of the testing platform. This may or may not be an intentional action by students, but we find this often happens and causes confusion for students and Test Examiners in trying to understand why a testing session has been interrupted.

**To avoid sticky keys:**
- Ensure there are no virtual desktop/apps open before starting INSIGHT
- Ensure students are not using hotkeys or key combinations that would prompt the student to leave INSIGHT
  - Quickly pressing Shift five times
  - Control Tab
  - Swiping to another screen on a touch-enabled device
  - Control + Alt + Delete
  - Windows + L
  - Holding the right Shift key for 8 seconds

More information can be found on the [Tips for Keyboard Settings](#) Document.

The Troubleshooting Guide for Georgia Milestones Online Testing gives additional information for other technical issues.

**Practice Test Questions**

We have received various calls with concerns about students’ experience with the practice test questions while completing the Georgia Milestones assessments.

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**Georgia Alternate Assessment 2.0**

**GAA 2.0 Window Closes**

Georgia educators administered the Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) 2.0 for students with significant cognitive disabilities from March 8 to April 30. This marks the second time this assessment was administered.

**Materials Return**

After the GAA 2.0 tests are administered, the STC is responsible for collecting, packaging, and shipping secure test materials to Questar via UPS no later than Monday, May 10. Secure test materials can be returned once tests have been administered and data entry is complete; systems do not have to wait until the end of the testing window to return secure test materials. For additional guidance related to the return of testing materials, please see the **GAA 2.0 Test Administration Manual**.

**To schedule a pick-up of test materials:** Call UPS at 1-877-536-2697.

**Questions about Nextera or collection of materials:**
Call Questar GAA 2.0 Customer Support, toll free at 866-997-0698. E-mail Questar GAA 2.0 Customer Support, at GA@QuestarAI.com.

Contact: Mary Nesbit-McBride, Ph.D., Assessment Specialist, mnesbit@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-232-1207.
Assessment Update

May 2021

As students complete these tests, please keep the following in mind:

- EOG students get one practice question on the section 1 ticket for their ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies tests.
- EOC students get two practice questions on the section 1 ticket for their ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies tests.
- The response/lack of response to the practice question has no effect on the student's score or overall test completion.
- When a student reviews their test via the Review screen, they may see an "unchecked" (non-answered) first question. If they attempt to navigate back to that question, they will get a message saying that they are trying to access a portion of the test that is no longer available. This message is referring to the practice item; there is no error, and no scores are affected if a student does not answer the practice question.

Posttest Guidance

As the Georgia Milestones testing windows approach their end and student results become available, please take time to set up a system-wide process to check on the following items to assure results are reported and reported accurately.

✓ Verify All Test Sessions are in Completed Status
For student scores to automatically be moved to scoring, all sections of a test must be in completed status. If you have started receiving scores and student results are missing, the likely cause is one or more test sessions left In Progress or Not Started. The suggested report to review is the Daily Cumulative Student Status Report. This can be downloaded to an Excel Spreadsheet from INSIGHT at the system or school level by navigating to Report Delivery > Status Reports > Daily Cumulative Student Status Report.

Once the report is downloaded, filtering on the Test Status column will enable the reviewer to zero in on any test sessions that are In Progress. The fix for this will be unlocking the test if needed, and allowing the student, under supervision, to log into and submit the test to move all sections to Completed status.

If it is suspected that the student has not responded to all test items, to check this in INSIGHT, navigate to Manage Sessions and find the test session for the student in question. Click on the Edit/Print Ticket Status icon (the fourth option) and when the student list appears, hover over Completed in the Status column associated with the student’s name to view the number of completed answers. If there is a concern that a student started but did not actually complete a session or has not made up a section, contact your Assessment Specialist for guidance. At the close of each testing window, student tests that are started but not correctly submitted will be extracted and scored as is.

As a reminder, tests that are still In Progress will not submit to scoring until the end of the state testing window. STCs and SchTCs should monitor test submission daily.

✓ Cross-reference Score Reports with Testing Rosters
It is important that testing sites thoroughly check preliminary student reports against testing rosters to verify that all student test results are accurately reported.

✓ Transcribing Paper Administration onto Online Forms
Confirm responses from paper administrations have been transcribed into correct online transcription forms.

✓ Check Irregularities
Review your local records to be sure all irregularities have been reported to Assessment Administration through the Testing Irregularity Form (TIF) found in the MyGaDOE Portal. Check irregularity entries to be sure any with the status of In Process/In Progress are submitted for GaDOE review. Rejected TIFs usually require attention from the system and should be updated and resubmitted. Approved TIFs should be reviewed and the guidance from GaDOE in the Irregularity History subsection followed. If coding is required, enter it in INSIGHT. The navigation path is Manage Students > View/Edit icon > Testing Codes on the Edit Student page. Under Testing Codes there will be a dropdown for the irregularity disposition and the irregularity code.
**Interactive Reporting Training Resources**

Spring is the first time many STCs and SchTCs will access reports through Interactive Reporting. **There will not be any printed reports this spring so ensure that SchTCs can access Interactive Reports and have a plan and process for distributing final reports to parents and students.** There are a variety of training resources for Interactive Reporting on the [Georgia Milestones Training Resources](#) page including a Webinar/PowerPoint, a video, and several QuickStart Guides.

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**Preliminary Score Reporting**

Preliminary Spring Mid-Month EOC data and reports are currently available in DRC INSIGHT, and they will be updated regularly as assessments are scored.

Given this year’s changes to the test design, as well as potential effects from the COVID-19 pandemic, a post-equating approach will be used for the Spring 2021 EOG and EOC. Therefore, a representative sample of students testing from across the state must be obtained to produce scoring tables. After analyzing Spring 2021 enrollment counts and system test dates, the earliest projected dates for the availability of Spring EOG and EOC reports and data files are shown in the schedule below.

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**GEORGIA MILESTONES REPORT LOCATIONS AND DATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>EOG Date</th>
<th>EOC Date</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary System Data Files, Class Rosters, and ISRs</td>
<td>INSIGHT</td>
<td>May 19</td>
<td>May 24</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>May 25</td>
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<td>May 28</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Content Area Summary and Population Summary</td>
<td>MyGaDOE Portal</td>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>July 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reports</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Final ISRs, Class Rosters, and Remediation &amp;</td>
<td>INSIGHT</td>
<td>July 8</td>
<td>July 16</td>
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**Assessment Update**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Retest Rosters (EOG only)</th>
<th>Final System Data Files</th>
<th>MyGaDOE Portal and INSIGHT</th>
<th>July 8</th>
<th>July 16</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISRs</td>
<td>SLDS</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact: Theresa Dell-Ross, Assessment Specialist, Theresa.Dell-Ross@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-657-0311.

**NAEP/NCES**

The results of the School Survey for February 2021 data have been released. The 39 grade 4 schools and the 34 grade 8 schools in the Georgia sample reported the following:

- Remote instruction was the mode of learning for 34% of 4th grade students
- Three or more hours of live instruction were given to 64% of the 4th grade remote learners
- Remote instruction for 4th graders was given to 57% of the Black students, 54% of the Asian students, 25% of the Hispanic students, and 19% of the White students
- Remote instruction was the mode of learning for 36% of 8th grade students
- Three or more hours of live instruction were given to 73% of the 8th grade remote learners
- Remote instruction for 8th graders was given to 54% of the Black students, 66% of the Asian students, 37% of the Hispanic students, and 18% of the White students
- The dashboard for the full results can be found at https://ies.ed.gov/schoolsurvey/

Contact: Bobbie Bable, Assessment Specialist, bbable@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-657-6168.

**Accountability Update**

The Live Portal Verification tool is now available in the MyGaDOE Portal with demographic data and attendance data. The 2021 4-year graduation cohort data file will be available in May for high schools. Also in May, additional select data from Student Record and Student Class will be added for elementary, middle, and high schools. Information in the tool is updated nightly, based on Student Record and Student Class uploads made by districts. District staff and principals should check the data carefully. Any errors must be corrected in Student Record and/or Student Class before the collections are certified and signed off by the superintendent in June. Though our waiver has been approved by the U.S. Department of Education, thus meaning there will be no CCRPI, it is still critical that data are correct for use in preparing public data files.

The Assessment Matching application, currently available in the Portal with national assessments and fall and winter EOC, will be updated with new assessments to match as they become available. The Non-Participation application, Cohort Withdrawal Update application, and Summer Graduate collection will be available in July. School staff should be collecting documentation now for districts to utilize in completing the applications. All applications will close in late August.

Look for emails with the exact closing dates and resources for the applications as they open. If you are not responsible for completing an application, be sure to forward the email to the appropriate staff in your district.

Please contact the accountability specialist assigned to assist your district with any questions or concerns.

**Key Training Dates for May-July 2021**

*Please note: for all GoToWebinar meeting links below, if the meeting date has passed, the meeting link will take you to the recording. Meeting links are embedded within the title.*

**FIP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Intended Audience</th>
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<tr>
<td>5/18/2021</td>
<td>Organizing to Help Teachers Facilitate Student Ownership of Learning</td>
<td>10 – 11 a.m.</td>
<td>STC</td>
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# Assessment Update

## Key Assessment Tasks and Reminders

### ACCESS for ELLs

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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Assessment Tasks and Reminders</th>
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<tr>
<td>4/26/2021 – 5/7/2021</td>
<td>ACCESS Pre-Reporting Data Validation Window</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/25/2021</td>
<td>Reports and Data Files Available in WIDA AMS (Online)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/7/2021 – 6/18/2021</td>
<td>ACCESS Post-Reporting Data Validation Window</td>
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<td>6/8/2021</td>
<td>Data Posted in AMS</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/14/2021</td>
<td>Reports Available in District (Printed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/25/2021</td>
<td>Late Returns Deadline</td>
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### DRC BEACON

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Assessment Tasks and Reminders</th>
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<tr>
<td>9/8/2020 – 6/30/2021</td>
<td>DRC BEACON Administration Window</td>
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### GAA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>5/10/2021</td>
<td>GAA 2.0 Deadline to Return all Materials</td>
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### GKIDS 2.0

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>7/6/2020 – 5/17/2021</td>
<td>GKIDS 2.0 Administration Window</td>
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<td>7/6/2020 – 6/11/2021</td>
<td>GKIDS 2.0 Platform Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/11/2021</td>
<td>GKIDS 2.0 Platform Closes (11:59 p.m.)</td>
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### Georgia Milestones

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<th>Dates</th>
<th>Assessment Tasks and Reminders</th>
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<tr>
<td>10/5/2020 – 5/7/2021</td>
<td>Secure Practice Test Window</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/1/2021 – 6/4/2021</td>
<td>INSIGHT Test Set-up Window Spring 2021 EOG</td>
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<td>3/1/2021 – 6/11/2021</td>
<td>INSIGHT Test Set-up Window Spring 2021 EOC</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/12/2021 – 5/28/2021</td>
<td>Spring 2021 Main EOG Administration</td>
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<td>4/19/2021 – 6/4/2021</td>
<td>Spring 2021 Main EOC Administration</td>
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<td>5/10/2021 – 7/16/2021</td>
<td>Summer 2021 EOG Retest Administration</td>
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<td>Summer 2021 EOC Administration</td>
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