

Dear PASA Assessment Coordinator (AC),

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) announced on March 19, 2020 the cancellation of all statewide assessments for the 2019-20 school year as a result of COVID-19. This includes the PSSA, Keystone Exams and Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA). The link to official PDE release can be accessed at: <https://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/Education-Details.aspx?newsid=813>

The Bureau of Special Education (BSE) and the PASA vendor recognize the closure comes during the PASA assessment window. At this time, PASA ACs and assessors are not required to take any further action in the PASA digital system regarding the 2020 PASA test administration cycle. Please see the frequently asked questions with responses below. BSE and the PASA vendor will continue to provide updates and guidance as it becomes available. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we move forward.

Q: What should the LEA do about students who were enrolled to be assessed on the 2020 PASA, but did not test prior to the COVID 19 school closures? Will there be any consequences for not testing these students?

A: As stated above, no further action is necessary for the 2020 PASA test administration cycle in the PASA digital system. Local Education Agencies (LEA) and service providers will not be penalized in any way for students who were unable to test due to the mandatory school closures.

Q: What should the LEA or service provider do about a student(s) that was planned to have a religious opt out or medical exemption in the enrollment system but was not coded as such prior to the closures?

A: No further action is necessary. Reasons for non-assessed students are used for accountability purposes, and this information will not be applicable this year due to the cancellation of all state assessments.

Q: Will students who completed testing receive an individualized student score report (ISSR)?

A: This is currently under review by BSE. A separate communication will be forthcoming to PASA ACs once a determination has been made.

Q: If a student is in a tested grade this year and was not able to complete the assessment, will the student be required to take that same grade level assessment next year? (i.e., Student is in 7th grade this year and moves to 8th grade next year, does the student take the 7th grade assessment next year?)

A: No. As always, students are assessed on the PASA based upon the grade level in which they are enrolled per PIMS and the IEP. Therefore, if a student was in 7th grade this year and advances to 8th grade next year, the IEP and PIMS will reflect 8th grade as the enrolled grade and the student must be enrolled and participate in the 8th grade PASA in 2021.