

2016 PSSA Participation Based on PIMS Data

The PIMS student data that DRC receives in the spring for PSSA reporting will also be used to calculate each school's participation rate.

In order for the Department to ensure that all eligible students are accounted for in the calculation, every public student enrolled in grades 3 – 8 at the end of the PSSA testing windows will be included in this PIMS file and they will be included in the school's participation calculation. Therefore, it is imperative that an answer booklet is returned for every student eligible for the PSSA.

This includes students who are not participating because of recent medical emergencies, parental exclusions, or other reasons. First-year ELL students who are not required to attempt the ELA assessment must have an ELA answer booklet returned. It is the responsibility of each public school to ensure that all of its students are administered the exam, whether the student is being educated within the district or testing in an out-of-district placement, or that a booklet is returned.

DRC's PSSA Corrections System will provide an opportunity for districts

to match students to their test records if a match is not made automatically via PIMS data. Districts will not be able to add any students to the population that is identified by PIMS, nor can a test record be added if a booklet was not returned for a student or if the student's booklet was returned incorrectly.

PDE will be providing more detailed information on this new requirement in the upcoming PSSA Administration Training sessions and other PIMS-related correspondence and webinars.

PSSA Grade Participation

Students in grades 3–8 must participate in the PSSAs applicable to each grade. Results from the English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science assessments will be used for accountability reporting.

New this year, a student must be assessed at the grade level he/she has attained at the time of the assessment window. PDE no longer requires a student to be tested at his/her grade level as of October 1 of the current school year.

This new policy is meant to ensure that a student's grade in the PIMS file for PSSA reporting and participation will

PSSA Grade Participation continued on page 2

Inside this issue:

Page 2 - CDT

Page 3- Keystone

Page 4 - Key dates

Contact DRC PA Customer Service 1-800-451-7849
Email: PAcustomerservice@datarecognitioncorp.com
eDIRECT website: <https://pa.drctedirect.com>

CDT Continues to Grow

CDT Content	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016 (as of 1.6.16)
Math	105,809	123,659	523,575	265,394
Reading/Literature	267,794	285,316	543,745	271,481
Science	40,349	55,220	275,276	128,900
Writing/English Composition	21,928	26,602	66,209	38,760
Total	786,193	809,993	1,408,805	704,535

In August 2015, DRC expanded the role of the Device Toolkit so that all devices could be configured and managed for online testing through a single-source platform. The 2015/2016 Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDTs) was the first online assessment to benefit from the expanded toolkit. The result has been continued growth in the use of laptops, iPads, and Chromebooks as the management of these devices is now streamlined with more traditional school computers.

The CDT also continues to see increased participation as familiarity with the usefulness of the diagnostic tool expands across the Commonwealth. The multiple-choice CDT assessments are designed to provide diagnostic information to guide instruction and intervention for students in grades 3 through high school. The CDTs are based on content covered by the PSSA and Keystone Exams and include an interactive reporting suite that is fully integrated with the Standards Aligned System (SAS) and fully aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards. All District Assessment Coordinators have access to the CDTs and additional information about the online tool is readily available on DRC's eDIRECT website.

PSSA Grade Participation (cont. from page 1)

match the grade level of the student's assessment.

Note: If a student is in Grade 8 at any time during the current school year, he/she must participate in the Grade 8 assessment.

The PSSAs are available online through DRC's INSIGHT test engine. If interested, LEAs are still able to have students test online. Starting in mid-February, LEAs can create online test sessions for any student taking at least one subject online. Online Tools Trainings (OTTs) and Tutorials provide a hands-on experience in online testing and are currently available.

Student Precode Labels will be produced for all valid student records provided to DRC from the December PIMS Internal Snapshot. Schools do not have to establish paper test sessions in eDIRECT to receive precode labels. Schools testing online must establish online test sessions in eDIRECT to receive test tickets.

Assessment Coordinators must access eDIRECT to create online test sessions, order additional materials, and update the Materials Receipt Notice (MRN) and Materials Accountability Form (MAF). As a reminder, each LEA should record the receipt and return of secure material via the MRN and MAF.

The scoring guidelines for mathematics and science will be presented as separate handouts. The grades 4–8 mathematics scoring guidelines will also include formula sheets. For English Language Arts, the Writing prompt and TDA prompt writer's checklists will be provided as a separate reference document while the scoring guidelines will be located in the back of the test booklets.

Spring Keystone Exams

The Spring Keystone Exams testing window is May 16–27, 2016. The Algebra I, Literature, and Biology exams should be administered to any students who have finished the corresponding course work.

Additionally, students who will be in grade 11 in spring 2016 and have not yet taken an exam should be administered the exams for inclusion in 2016 accountability and School Performance Profile calculations. Grade 11 students who have not passed may take the exams again in order to attain proficiency for the 2016 reporting cycle. Ordering materials for the Spring Keystone Exams occurred October 27–31, 2015.

Test Setup for the production of precode labels for the Spring Keystone Exams will be available March 14–18, 2016. In order to receive precode labels for the Spring Keystone Exams, paper test sessions must be created in eDIRECT during this window. Student records provided to DRC from PIMS will be available in eDIRECT to assist with the test setup process.

Secure materials for the Spring Keystone Exams will arrive by May 2, 2016. Schools should be prepared to handle both outgoing PSSA materials and incoming Keystone materials at this time.

**Need assistance?
Contact DRC PA
Customer Service at
1-800-451-7849**

Winter Keystone Exams

The Corrections System for the 2015/2016 Winter Keystone Exams will be available February 10–16, 2016. During this window, every LEA is required to provide or update student demographic information (PAsecureID, Last Name, First Name, and DOB) for any student records that are not matched to PIMS. Because the Keystone Exams' scores are calculated as the best score over multiple administrations, the system will also allow users to link student records from the current administration to past Keystone Exams test events. There will be no live training for this system. A training video and a user guide are available on the DRC eDIRECT website.

The Winter Keystone District Student Data Files will be available via eDIRECT on February 29, 2016. These files contain the individual student's results. Access to student results in eDIRECT is limited to the Reporting Contact on file with DRC. See page 4 for other reporting dates.

Summer Keystone Exams

The Summer Keystone Exams Enrollment System on eDIRECT will be available April 6–12, 2016. During this window, LEA's will have the ability to update contact information and provide projected school-level testing counts.

The information collected in this system will be used to determine material counts and the delivery locations. Counts must be provided during this window to receive testing materials for the 2016 Summer Keystone Exams. The testing window for the Summer Keystone Exams is August 1–5, 2016.

PSSA Administration Training

PDE will be hosting a video conference of the 2016 PSSA administration training. The PSSA administration training will no longer be presented as live and video linked sessions from the IUs and PaTTAN offices.

PDE's training will include monitoring procedures, proper test security, planning for the assessment, and participation policies. PDE will provide specifics on the date, time, and link for the presentation in an upcoming PennLink.

DRC will be hosting a separate administration training to demonstrate managing the receipt and return of paper materials, applying barcode labels, and administering the online assessments through eDIRECT. DRC will send additional correspondence regarding this training.

This information being presented in both trainings is critical to the administration of these assessments; therefore, it is required that every LEA have at least one representative attend the training. These are train-the-trainer sessions. It is expected that the attendee deliver the information to his/her coordinators and test administrators.

Key Dates

Winter Keystone

Corrections/Match-to-Master Window	February 10-16, 2016
District Student Data Files Available	February 29, 2016
School and District Summary Reports Available	March 25, 2016
Individual Student Reports (ISRs) Available in the Field	April 4, 2016

PSSA

Online Test Setup Open	February 22, 2016
Non-secure Test Materials Arrive at Districts/Schools	March 14, 2016
Secure Test Materials Arrive at Districts/Schools	March 28, 2016
English Language Arts Test Window	April 11-15, 2016
Mathematics Test Window	April 18-22, 2016
Science Test Window	April 25-29, 2016
ELA, Math, Science Make-up Test Window	May 1-6, 2016
Deadline for Districts to return materials to DRC for processing	May 13, 2016

Spring Keystone

Test Setup Window to Receive Precode Labels	March 14-18, 2016
Non-secure Test Materials Arrive at Districts/Schools	April 18, 2016
Secure Test Materials Arrive at Districts/Schools	May 2, 2016
Testing Window	May 16-27, 2016

Summer Keystone

Enrollment Window	April 6-12, 2016
Testing Window	August 1-5, 2016

C L A S S R O O M
DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS

