

November 1, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In accordance with Section 1112(e)(2)(a) of *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA), we are writing to provide information regarding the assessments that will be administered this year among students at Gate City Charter Academy.

The North Carolina READY Accountability Model (adopted in 2012-2013) acknowledges that we owe every child an education that properly prepares him or her for their next big steps after graduation – college, career, and adulthood. To measure student progress toward this goal, and maintain a focus on educational equity and excellence, the law maintains that all students are required to take annual statewide assessments. To provide assessment transparency, we would like to share with you below, the various state assessments that we are required to administer to our students throughout the school year.

State Assessments for Grades K-3

- mClass – Grades K-3 diagnostic reading assessment

State Assessments for Grades 3-8

- Beginning-of-Grade 3 Test (BOG3): English language arts/reading test between the 11th and the 15th day of the school year.
- End-of-Grade Tests (EOG): Students at grades 3, 4, 6, and 7 take the English language arts/reading and mathematics during the last 10 days of the school year.
- End-of-Grade Tests (EOG): Students at grades 5 and 8 take English language arts/reading, mathematics, and science during the last 10 days of the school year.
- Students who are enrolled for credit in courses where End-of-Course (EOC) tests and North Carolina Final Exams are required shall take the appropriate End-of-Course test and NC Final Exam. Tests are given during the last 5 days of the instructional period for 4X4/semester courses or the last 10 days of the instructional period for traditional/yearlong courses. In 2017-18, EOC tests are available for the following subjects: NC math I, biology, and English II.
- All students identified as limited English proficient must be annually assessed to determine progress and level of English language proficiency.

English Language Proficiency State Assessment for Grades K-8

- Language minority students are identified through the use of the home language survey process.
- The WIDA ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT) is administered to all initially enrolled language minority students within 30 calendar days at the beginning of the school year or 14 calendar days of enrollment if the student enrolls after the beginning of the school year.
- All students identified as limited English proficient must be administered the Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners (ACCESS for ELLs) during the annual testing window.
- The Alternate ACCESS for ELLs is an assessment of English language proficiency for students in *grades 1-12* who are identified as language minority students and have significant cognitive disabilities.

State Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities for Grades 3-8

- NCEXTEND1 is an alternate assessment designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities who have Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).
- The assessment process requires students to complete performance-based, multiple-choice items in the following subject areas; English language arts/reading at *grades 3-8*, mathematics at *grades 3-8*, and science at *grades 5 & 8*

For additional information about our assessment transparency, please call us or visit our website at: <https://www.nhaschools.com/schools/Gate-City-Charter-Academy/en> and click on **School Operations**. Then select **Testing Transparency for Parents and Families**.