§ 200.3 Designing State Academic Assessment Systems.

(a)(1) For each grade and subject assessed, a State’s academic assessment system must—

(i) Address the depth and breadth of the State’s academic content standards under §200.1(b);

(ii) Be valid, reliable, and of high technical quality;

(iii) Express student results in terms of the State’s academic achievement standards; and

(iv) Be designed to provide a coherent system across grades and subjects.

(2) A State may include in its academic assessment system under §200.2 either or both—

(1) Criterion-referenced assessments; and

(ii) Assessments that yield national norms, provided that, if the State uses only assessments referenced against national norms at a particular grade, those assessments—

(A) Are augmented with additional items as necessary to measure accurately the depth and breadth of the State’s academic content standards; and

(B) Express student results in terms of the State’s student academic achievement standards.

(b) A State that includes a combination of assessments as described in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, or a combination of State and local assessments, in its State assessment system must demonstrate in its State plan that the system has a rational and coherent design that—

(1) Identifies the assessments to be used;

(2) Indicates the relative contribution of each assessment towards—

(i) Ensuring alignment with the State’s academic content standards; and

(ii) Determining the adequate yearly progress of each school and LEA; and

(3) Provides information regarding the progress of students relative to the State’s academic standards in order to inform instruction.

(c) A State that includes local assessments in the system described in §200.2(b) must—

(1) Establish technical criteria to ensure that each local assessment meets the requirements of paragraphs (a)(1) and (c)(2) of this section;

(2) Demonstrate in its State plan that all local assessments used for this purpose—

(i) Are equivalent to one another and to State assessments, where they exist, in their content coverage, difficulty, and quality;

(ii) Have comparable validity and reliability with respect to groups of students described in section 1111(b)(2)(C)(v) of the Act; and

(iv) be designed to provide a coherent system across grades and subjects.
(iii) Provide unbiased, rational, and consistent determinations of the annual progress of schools and LEAs within the State;

(3) Review and approve each local assessment to ensure that it meets or exceeds the State’s technical criteria in paragraph (c)(1) of this section and the requirements in paragraph (c)(2) of this section; and

(4) Be able to aggregate, with confidence, data from local assessments to determine whether the State has made adequate yearly progress.

(d) A State’s academic assessment system may rely exclusively on local assessments only if it meets the requirements of §200.4.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(3))

[67 FR 45040, July 5, 2002]

§ 200.4 State law exception.

(a) If a State provides satisfactory evidence to the Secretary that neither the State educational agency (SEA) nor any other State government official, agency, or entity has sufficient authority under State law to adopt academic content standards, student academic achievement standards, and academic assessments applicable to all students enrolled in the State’s public schools, the State may meet the requirements under §§200.1 and 200.2 by—

(1) Adopting academic standards and academic assessments that meet the requirements of §§200.1 and 200.2 on a Statewide basis and limiting their applicability to students served under subpart A of this part; or

(2) Adopting and implementing policies that ensure that each LEA in the State that receives funds under subpart A of this part will adopt academic standards and academic assessments aligned with those standards that—

(i) Meet the requirements in §§200.1 and 200.2; and

(ii) Are applicable to all students served by the LEA.

(b) A State that qualifies under paragraph (a) of this section must—

(1) Establish technical criteria for evaluating whether each LEA’s—

(i) Academic content and student academic achievement standards meet the requirements in §200.1; and

(ii) Academic assessments meet the requirements in §200.2, particularly regarding validity and reliability, technical quality, alignment with the LEA’s academic standards, and inclusion of all students in the grades assessed;

(2) Review and approve each LEA’s academic standards and academic assessments to ensure that they—

(i) Meet or exceed the State’s technical criteria; and

(ii) For purposes of this section—

(A) Are equivalent to one another in their content coverage, difficulty, and quality;

(B) Have comparable validity and reliability with respect to groups of students described in section 1111(b)(2)(C)(v) of the Act; and

(C) Provide unbiased, rational, and consistent determinations of the annual progress of LEAs and schools within the State; and

(3) Be able to aggregate, with confidence, data from local assessments to determine whether the State has made adequate yearly progress.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(5))

[67 FR 45041, July 5, 2002]

§ 200.5 Timeline for assessments.

(a) Reading/language arts and mathematics.

(1) Through the 2004–2005 school year, a State must administer the assessments required under §200.2 at least once during—

(i) Grades 3 through 5;

(ii) Grades 6 through 9; and

(iii) Grades 10 through 12.

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, beginning no later than the 2005–2006 school year, a State must administer both the reading/language arts and mathematics assessments required under §200.2—

(i) In each of grades 3 through 8; and

(ii) At least once in grades 10 through 12.

(3) The Secretary may extend, for one additional year, the timeline in paragraph (a)(2) of this section if a State demonstrates that—

(1) Full implementation is not possible due to exceptional or uncontrolled circumstances such as—

(A) A natural disaster; or

(B) Special needs or language issues that have not been adequately addressed; or

(C) A natural disaster; or

(D) An act of terrorism; or

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