Assessment Update

CDT Testing Begins August 25

The 2014–2015 Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDT) will be available for schools to begin administering on August 25. Test Setup for the CDTs (via DRC's eDIRECT system) began on August 18, and an updated version of INSIGHT's Testing Site Manager (TSM) was released at the same time. Schools must ensure they have the updated TSM before scheduling any CDT test sessions.

The CDTs, which are a set of online assessments designed to provide diagnostic information in order to guide instruction and intervention, launched an expansion to include grades 3–5 in May 2014. The assessments available for 2014–15 include: Mathematics Lower Grades, Mathematics, Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Science Lower Grades, Science, Biology, Chemistry, Reading Lower Grades, Reading/Literature, Writing Lower Grades, and Writing/English Composition.

All of the CDTs, including the grades 3–5 expansion, are based on content covered by the Pennsylvania System of School Assessments and the Keystone Exams and include an interactive

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Enrollment window opens Sept. 8 for Winter Keystone

Districts will enter enrollments for the 2014/2015 Winter Keystone Exams Sept. 8–12, 2014, during the Materials Ordering Window. Enrollment counts for online and paper/pencil testing are needed for all subjects (including accommodated materials).

Because the Keystone Exams replaced the grade 11 PSSAs for the purpose of satisfying federal accountability requirements, all students must participate in the Keystone Exams or, if applicable, the Grade 11 PASA by spring of their grade 11 year.

The Winter Keystone testing window for Algebra I, Biology, and Literature is scheduled in two separate waves to accommodate different semester end dates in schools with block scheduling.

The testing window for wave 1 is Dec. 3–17, 2014.

The testing window for wave 2 is Jan. 7–21, 2015.

A district may test all subjects during a single wave or split the subjects between waves, but a single subject cannot be tested during both waves. All schools in the district must follow the same window for security reasons.

2015 Spring PSSA and Keystone Enrollment

The 2015 Spring PSSA Materials Ordering Window will be available Sept. 29–Oct. 3, 2014. The Materials Ordering Window for the 2015 Spring Keystone Exams will be available Oct. 27–31, 2014.

DRC will set up district users in eDIRECT before the start of each window. During these windows, district users must update contact information and enter estimated enrollment counts for each subject/grade.

PSSA Individual Student Reports

PSSA Individual Student Reports (ISRs) for students who participated in the spring 2014 Mathematics, Reading, Science, and Writing assessments will arrive on Sept. 5. The boxes will contain two identical copies of the ISRs, one for the school and one to be forwarded to the parent or guardian.

To assist parents, guardians, and school and district personnel in understanding the ISR, a "Report Interpretation Guide" can be found on the PDE website: www.education.state.pa.us (type "student report guide" in the search box).

2014 PSSA Summary Files

The 2014 online District and School Summary Reports will be available via eMetric on Sept. 9, 2014. Summary reports provide an overview of how your district and schools' performance compares to that of previous years and to the PSSA performance across the entire state. On Sept. 4, PSSA data will be refreshed on the Data Interaction™ tool. This online tool gives you the option to customize summary reports from previous years and current PSSA data. You can access eMetric at https://solutions1.emetric.net/pa.

PAIUnet

Public schools/districts participating in the recent Summer Keystone administration had the first opportunity to use test-content caching through their local PAIUnet connections. This initiative by PDE, DRC, and the Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units (PAIU) was designed to decrease the reliance on local internet bandwidth for online testing. To accomplish this, the team installed a dedicated, private data line that directly links DRC to the PAIUnet.

Schools and districts that connect to the PAIUnet via their specific IU nodes can circumvent the commodity internet traffic, resulting in faster download speeds for the test content. Content caching with PAIUnet also eliminates the need for content caching to be set up at individual schools. Note that the PAIUnet alternative is for content caching only. Response caching must still be done at the school or district level.

Technology coordinators within participating PAIUnet districts who would like to utilize PAIUnet for content caching during the upcoming assessments can make simple changes within their local Testing Site Manager (TSM) interface. Please contact DRC if you would like additional information or look for more information to be released prior to the Winter Keystone Exams.

CDT (continued from page 1)

reporting suite. The CDT reporting system is fully integrated with the Standards Aligned System (SAS) and is fully aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards. The operational CDTs at grades 3–5 (termed "Lower Grades") provide schools an opportunity to expand their use of this important tool to a new set of students.

Important Note: Beginning in the 2014–15 school year, PDE (PIMS) will no longer upload student and teacher data to DRC for the CDT process. Instead, LEAs will utilize the eDIRECT system to upload data for CDT testing. PDE is developing a process for LEAs to pull "DRC-ready" student files directly from PIMS for upload to eDIRECT. More information will be provided in the coming weeks as the process is finalized.

Remaining Dates for the 2014 Assessments

Summer 2014 Keystone

Corrections Window	**August 27–28, 2014**
District Student Data Files Available	**September 11, 2014**
ISRs arrive at Districts/Schools	**September 25, 2014**
Summary Reports Available	**September 30, 2014**
Data Interaction^{TM} Available	**October 1, 2014**

Spring 2014 Keystone

ISRs arrive at Districts/Schools	**September 10, 2014**

Spring 2014 PSSA

Data Interaction^{TM} Available	**September 4, 2014**
ISRs arrive at Districts/Schools	**September 5, 2014**
Summary Reports Available	**September 9, 2014**

Summer Keystone

The Online Corrections System for the 2014 Summer Keystone Exams will be available Aug. 27–28, 2014. If your LEA tested during the summer window, you are 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. Updating these fields will typically create a match to PIMS.

The system also allows users to link student records from the 2014 Summer Keystone Exams to past Keystone test events. A student's reported score for the Keystone Exams could be a combination of a score from the current administration and any previous scores, so it is important that users create these links to ensure that students receive the most accurate score.

2014 Accountability Reporting

The School Performance Profile (SPP) system and the Required Federal Reporting Measures website will again be used by PDE to meet state and federal accountability-reporting requirements. Both systems will utilize student data from the DRC-produced files for 2014 accountability to report performance and participation for all student and measurable subgroups, along with PDE graduation and attendance files and other required data elements.

Both reporting systems will be accessible via public websites. PDE is targeting Sept. 24, 2014, for the public release date of the SPP and Oct. 31, 2014, for the Required Federal Reporting Measures website to be updated with 2014 data. Please refer to PDE's website for additional information.

Winter Keystone (continued from page 1)

To receive precode labels for the 2014/2015 Winter Keystone Exams, districts must utilize the October 20–24 Test Setup Window to establish paper test sessions. By placing students into paper test sessions, DRC knows that these students need precode labels to use on the paper tests.

The September 30, 2014, PIMS snapshot will be provided to DRC for the purpose of preloading student records into eDIRECT. Only students that are placed into paper test sessions during the Test Setup Window will receive precode labels.

The Online Corrections System for the 2014/2015 Winter Keystone Exams will be available February 11–17, 2015. 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. The system will also allow users to link student records from the 2014/2015 Winter Keystone Exams to past Keystone test events to support the calculations of best scores over multiple administrations.

2014–2015 Key Dates

CDT	
Test Setup Opens	**August 18, 2014**
Technology Coordinator Training	**August 19 & 20, 2014**
2014–2015 Assessments Available	**August 25, 2014**
Winter Keystone	
Enrollment Window	**September 8–12, 2014**
Paper/Pencil Test Setup Window	**October 20–24, 2014**
Test Administrator Training	**November 18, 20 & 21, 2014**
Administrative Materials arrive in Districts	**By November 5, 2014**
Wave 1 Secure Materials arrive in Districts	**By November 19, 2014**
Wave 1 Testing Window	**December 3–17, 2014**
Wave 2 Secure Materials arrive in Districts	**By December 19, 2014**
Wave 2 Testing Window	**January 7–21, 2015**
Corrections Window	**Feb. 11–17, 2015**
PSSA	
Enrollment Window	**Sept. 29–Oct. 3, 2014**
English Language Arts Test Window	**April 13–17, 2015**
Mathematics Test Window	**April 20–24, 2015**
Science Test Window	**April 27–May 1, 2015**
Make-up Test Window	**May 4–8, 2015**
Spring Keystone	
Enrollment Window	**Oct. 27–31, 2014**
Paper/Pencil Test Setup Window	**March 11–17, 2015**
Testing Window	**May 13–27, 2015**

CLASSROOM DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS

Mathematics
Reading
Science
Writing

PENNSYLVANIA KEYSTONE EXAMS