

Graduation Requirements and Testing – Statutes, Consequences, and Possible Approaches

Graduation Requirements

	Concern	Description	NCGA Action needed?	Statute	Possible Approach
1	Will high school seniors be unable to graduate if they have not completed CPR instruction?	Statutes require that SBE set graduation requirements that must include successful completion of CPR instruction.	Yes – Current statutes require students complete CPR training to graduate.	115C-12(9d)a.1. 115C-81.25(c)(10)	For 2020, waive CPR requirement for seniors who have fulfilled all other graduation requirements.
2	Will high school seniors be unable to graduate due to not receiving a passing grade in the Founding Principles course?	Statutes require that SBE set graduation requirements that must include receiving a passing grade in the Founding Principles history course.	No. SBE guidance on graduating seniors should address this issue to allow for grades in this course for all students.	115C-12(9d)a.2. 115C-81.45(d)(1)	

Tests					
	Concern	Description	NCGA Action needed?	Statute	Possible Approach
3	Will school closures impact administration of statutorily required summative assessment testing in 3-12?	<p>State law requires the following summative assessment tests be administered annually:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federally required tests for 3rd-8th grade and some high school course. ACT for 11th graders. <p>These tests are used for teacher and student data, as well as for annual school report cards.</p> <p>All of these tests have been either waived by the federal government or partially administered in the 19-20 school year.</p>	NCGA could waive testing requirements for clarity.	115C-174.11(c)	Waive requirements for any federally required tests and ACT for 19-20 school year.
4	Will school closures impact administration of statutorily required formative/diagnostic testing in K-3?	<p>State law requires that formative and diagnostic assessments be given in grades K-3 to align with the standard course of study and Read to Achieve.</p> <p>These tests are used for teacher and student data.</p> <p>Statutes do not require multiple administration of the assessments, but SBE policy does.</p>	NCGA could waive assessment requirements for clarity.	115C-174.11(a)	Waive requirements for K-3 formative/diagnostic tests not yet completed for 19-20 school year.
5	Will school closures impact administration of Pre-ACT/PSAT diagnostics?	<p>State law requires certain students take the Pre-ACT/PSAT diagnostics.</p> <p>These tests were all administered in the fall.</p>	No NCGA action is needed at this time.	115C-174.22 115C-174.18	
6	Will school closures impact administration of WorkKeys?	<p>State law requires that WorkKeys be offered to CTE concentrators in high school.</p> <p>WorkKeys is also a datapoint for school report cards.</p>	Yes. Administration of WorkKeys to CTE completers in spring semester required by statute is not possible due to school closures.	115C-174.25	Waive requirement to administer WorkKeys for the spring 2020 semester.

Accountability Measures					
	Concern	Description	NCGA Action Needed?	Statutes	Possible Approach
7	How will school performance scores and grades be calculated if State and federal summative assessments scores are unavailable?	Statutes require use of summative assessments to calculate the school performance scores and grades.	Yes. Grades cannot be calculated without summative assessments under current statutes.	115C-12(24) 115C.83.15 115C.83.16	Waiver of calculation of school performance scores and grades for 19-20 school year for all public schools.
8	How will schools issue an annual report card if there are no school performance grades?	Statutes require publication of report cards for all types of public schools that are based on school performance grades.	Yes. Report cards cannot be published without school performance grades under current statutes.	115C-12(9)c1, c3 115C-218.65 115C-238.66(11) 116-239.8(14)	Waive publication of report cards for 19-20 school year for all public schools.
9	How will low-performing schools be identified if there are no school performance grades?	Statutes require identification of low-performing and continually low-performing schools and units annually based at least in part on the prior year's school performance grades.	Yes. Low-performing schools cannot be identified under current statutes without school performance grades.	115C-105.37 115C-105.37A 115C-105.39A 115C-218.94	Continue current identifications for all schools and units based on 18-19 school year. No new identifications based on 19-20.
10	How will schools be identified as qualifying or for selection into the Innovative School District (ISD) if there are no school performance scores?	<p>Session law requires a school to be selected to enter the ISD in the 20-21 school year based on 19-20 school performance scores.</p> <p>Statutes also require schools to be assessed on a 3 year cycle, which began with school performance scores from 18-19, for determination of selection into the ISD.</p>	Yes. Schools cannot be identified under current law for ISD selection without school performance scores.	115C-75.7 S.L. 2019-248, Sec. 1.(c)	<p>No school selected to enter the ISD in 20-21.</p> <p>For 3 year cycle assessment, exempt 19-20 school year data.</p>

Read to Achieve (RtA)					
	Concern	Description	NCGA Action Needed?	Statutes	Possible Approach
11	Will school closures impact developmental screening and the kindergarten entry assessment (KEA)?	Statutes requires students entering kindergarten be given a developmental screening and kindergarten entry assessment to inform instruction.	No. NCGA action is not needed for 19-20 school year as the KEA has been administered.	115C-83.5	
12	Will school closures impact K-3 reading diagnostics and EVAAS Analysis?	Statutes require that K-3 reading diagnostics that can be analyzed by EVAAS be completed to inform student instruction and identify students for summer reading camps. SBE policy requires 3 assessments at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year. K-3 reading diagnostics were completed through March.	NCGA could waive assessment requirements for clarity.	115C-83.6.(a),(a1), (a2)	Waive requirements for K-3 reading diagnostic tests not yet completed for 19-20 school year.
13	How will 3rd grade promotion decisions be made if 3rd grade Reading EOGs are unavailable?	Statutes require that students in 3rd grade may be promoted only following demonstration that the student reads at grade level on the 3rd grade Reading EOG or an alternate assessment, or fits into certain exceptions. Students who are not promoted are provided various supports and opportunities for retesting.	Yes. 3rd grade promotion decisions under current statute are based on testing data or alternate assessments.	§ 115C-83.7 (a), (b) (b1-5), (c), (c1-2) § 115C-83.9 (a), (b), (c), (d)	Allow principals to promote for 3rd grades in same way as for other grades in 19-20, including consideration of all available data on student.
14	Will summer reading camps be provided in 2020 due to school closures and issues with identification of eligible students?	Statutes require summer reading camps be offered to students retained in grade 3 or reading below grade level in grades 1-2. Students are identified for camps through reading diagnostics during the school year and the 3rd grade Reading EOG test.	Yes. Identification of students under current statutes relies on data that will be limited due to federal waivers and school closures.	115C-83.8 (a), (b), (c), (e) 115C-83.11 (a), (b)	Waive reading camps for 2020, but require reading assessments for all 4th grade students in 20-21 to provide additional supports.
15	How will RtA accountability measures be reported if underlying data is unavailable?	Statutes require schools to publish information on proficiency rates and reading camp eligibility in grades 1-3, and information related to promotion and retention rates for 3rd graders.	Yes. Data required under current statutes relies on information limited by federal waivers and school closures.	115C-83.10 (a), (a1), (b), (b1), (c), (d), (e), SL 2018-5	Waive RtA reporting requirements for 19-20 school year.

Bonuses					
	Concern	Description	NCGA Action Needed?	Statutes	Possible Approach
16	How will teacher bonuses for teachers in AP, IB, AICE, and CTE be determined?	<p>In prior years, session laws have provided bonuses to teachers of certain courses (AP, IB, AICE, and CTE) based on student performance on examination results and certifications achieved from those programs.</p> <p>There is no currently enacted session law to award bonuses based on performance for the 19-20 school year.</p>	None at this time.		
17	How will teacher and principal bonuses based on growth from assessments be awarded?	<p>In prior years, session laws have provided bonuses to principals and teachers of certain courses in grades 3-8 based on student growth measured by federally required summative assessments.</p> <p>There is no currently enacted session law to award bonuses based on performance for the 19-20 school year.</p>	None at this time.		
18	How will principal recruitment bonuses be determined?	Schools designated as low-performing schools in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state for school performance scores are eligible to participate in a program to provide recruitment bonuses for qualifying principals.	Yes. Current statute requires that a school be determined eligible based on the prior school year data.	115C-285.1	Eligibility for use of the program in the 20-21 school year based off of 18-19 data.

Other Testing Related Items					
	Concern	Description	NCGA Action Needed?	Statutes	Possible Approach
19	How will advanced math placement based on EOC/EOG scores be made if those scores are not available?	Statutes require students to be placed in an advanced math courses if the student scores at the highest level on the prior year's math EOC/EOG.	Yes. Students will not be able to be placed in courses as required by statute if EOC/EOG scores are unavailable.	115C-81.36.	For 20-21 math course placement, schools will make placement decisions in the same manner as for other courses.
20	How will principals notify teachers of EVAAS data?	Principals are required to annually notify teachers when EVAAS data becomes available based on standardized assessments.	Yes. EVAAS data will not be available to share with teachers as required by statute due to testing waivers.	115C-333.2	For 19-20, waive principal notification requirement for EVAAS data.
21	How will effectiveness data on teacher attrition be reported?	As part of the annual report on the state of the teaching profession, schools are required to report information on the effectiveness, based on EVAAS data, of teachers who have left the profession in the last year.	Yes. EVAAS data will not be available to report as required by statute due to testing waivers.	115C-299.5(d)	Waive inclusion of data on teacher effectiveness in the teacher attrition report issued in Dec. '20