

POLICY ILBB **Board of Education**
Las Cruces Public Schools

Related Entries: ILBB-R

Responsible Office: Deputy Superintendent

DISTRICT ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of Policy ILBB is to establish procedures for the selection and uniform administration of all district assessments consistent with state and federal law.

II. BACKGROUND

A. The Board affirms that the fundamental purpose of any assessment is to verify and improve student learning at the course, program, school, and district level. Assessment provides options to gather and discuss information from diverse sources to develop a deeper understanding of what students know and what they can do with their knowledge. Thus, the Board further affirms that large-scale formal assessment is designed to gather data on trends and provide system-level accountability.

B. The Board recognizes that in-class assessments developed by teachers, based on what is taught to a specific student community, are powerful in setting the directions for further teaching and enhancing learning outcomes for students. In order to protect instructional time to the greatest extent possible, the Board endorses a balance between formal assessments and in-class assessments and supports a system that minimizes the use of formal assessments.

C. The Board of Education recognizes that the district must comply with federal and state testing requirements and is committed to meeting the 95 percent state and federally required participation rate. The Board further recognizes a parent’s right to opt their child out of such assessments as permitted by federal law, specifically the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), 20 U.S.C. § 6312(e)(2)(A). In order to balance these rights and interests, the Board is committed to a uniform message that honors a Parents Right-to Know and provides Testing Transparency so that no child is deprived of the opportunity to participate in the district’s assessment program, including children with disabilities, economically disadvantaged children, and English learners.

III. POSITION

A. All students will participate in the New Mexico Statewide Assessment Program (NMSAP) as required by applicable state statutes and regulations.

- B. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) will be administered each year to obtain an indication of student and school performance relative to national performance levels.
- C. Assessment results shall serve as a basis to differentiate instruction at the classroom level, schedule students in appropriate courses at the secondary level, identify students in need of academic intervention or acceleration, and to make programmatic revisions.
- D. The Superintendent shall review annually all required district assessments to ensure that district assessments are reasonable and useful to inform instruction and shall publish annually the assessment calendar on the district's website.
- E. The Superintendent or designee shall make widely available through public means (including by posting in a clear and easily accessible manner on the district's website and on the website of each campus), information on each assessment required by the State, and each district mandated assessment, including:
 - 1. the subject matter assessed;
 - 2. the purpose for which the assessment is designed and used;
 - 3. the source of the requirement for the assessment and where such information is available;
 - 4. the amount of time students will spend taking the assessment and the schedule for the assessment; and
 - 5. the time and format for disseminating results.
- F. Each school campus will comply with administrative rules prepared by the Superintendent as well as state law and regulations in the implementation of the statewide assessment program.
- G. Students with disabilities will be included in the assessment program in compliance with the provisions of state and federal laws and regulations. A student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) will identify all needed assessment accommodations, modifications, and/or any alternate assessment to any protocol.
- H. While federal and state laws require all students to participate in state accountability assessments, the district shall implement uniform procedures that allow a parent to opt-out of various assessments for medical and other extenuating personal reasons. Consistent with federal law, at the beginning of each school year, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the parents of each student that the parents may request information regarding the district's policies concerning student participation in any state or district mandated assessment, which shall include information regarding the district's procedures pertaining to a parent's right to opt their child out of such assessments. Such information

shall be provided to parents on request, and in a timely and uniform manner. All information pertaining to state and district mandated assessments shall be uniformly communicated by principals and other district staff.

- I. The superintendent shall promulgate a regulation for the enforcement of this policy.

IV. REVIEW

This policy shall be reviewed on an ongoing basis in accordance with the Board of Education policy review process.

Maria A. Flores

Board of Education, President

March 22, 2016

Date Approved

History: Formerly Policies 402, 435, and 437; Revised 5.1.07; Revised 09.18.12; Revised 12.09.14; Revised 03.22.16 (Walsh Gallegos)

Legal Reference:

20 U.S.C. Sections 6310, et.seq. – No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

Education of the Handicapped Act, Public Law 93-380, amended by Public Law 94-142, Education of All Handicapped Children Act.

20 USCA Sections 1400-1485- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004

22-2C-4 NMSA 1978 and 6.29.1.9.L NMAC