New! OST Summer 2020 Testing Cancellation
Due to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) health crisis, the summer administration of the 2020 Ohio’s State Tests has been cancelled. This cancellation encompasses the grade 3 English language arts test and all high school end-of-course tests. The Department will continue to provide updates on state testing as they become available.

NEW! Science Assessment Updated Materials to be Released June 30th
The updated science grades 5 and 8 assessment materials presented below will be released on June 30 on the test portal.

The science updated test specifications provide an overview of the structure and content of Ohio’s State Test. This overview includes a description of the test design as well as information on the types of items that will appear on the test. Also included is a test blueprint, a document that identifies the range and distribution of points grouped by reporting categories. The test specifications also provide specific guidelines for the development of all items used for Ohio’s State Tests in Science.

The science updated test blueprints have been updated to reflect the 2018 Ohio Learning Standards for Science. Test blueprints serve as a guide for test construction and provide an outline of the content and skills to be measured on the test. They contain information about individual tests, including the number of points on the test and show how the learning standards are grouped in reporting categories.

The half-length practice tests have been updated to reflect the 2018 Ohio Learning Standards for Science. Updated half-length practice tests are available for each of the state tests. Practice test items allow students to become familiar with the online test environment by showcasing the different item types, features, and functionality available to students during online testing.

The Practice Test Scoring Guides now also reflect the 2018 Ohio Learning Standards for Science. The Practice Test Scoring Guides provide answer keys and scoring guidance for each Ohio’s State Tests. They include the item type, the content standard and content statement assessed, an answer key, and the number of points associated with each item. In addition, they include the guidelines for scoring (i.e. scoring rubrics), sample responses and notes on scoring and rationales that describe why response options are correct or incorrect.

The Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) have been updated to reflect the 2018 Ohio Learning Standards for Science. The PLDs are the link between Ohio’s Learning Standards and performance standards. They were developed by Ohio educators and other content experts to illustrate the typical demonstration of the learning for each of the five performance levels: Limited, Basic, Proficient, Accelerated and Advanced. Teachers can review the PLDs for each grade level or subject to match each descriptive statement with its course standards. Teachers can then review local curriculum materials to see if opportunities are being given to students to demonstrate deeper conceptual understanding of course content at the different performance levels.

For questions about these materials regarding science assessment, please email Thomas.Bulgrin@education.ohio.gov.
New! Providing Services to English Learners during the COVID-19 Outbreak
On May 18th, 2020, the U.S. Department of Education released a comprehensive fact sheet on service provision for English learners during the COVID-19 outbreak. The document offers information and guidance to state and local education agencies on English language proficiency assessments, English learner identification and exit procedures, services for English learners, use of Title III funds and communication with families of English learners. **Fact Sheet: Providing Services to English Learners during the COVID-19 Outbreak.**

New! OELPA Scores
Results of the Spring 2020 Ohio English Language Proficiency Assessment (OELPA) administration are available in the [Online Reporting System](#).

Students who did not complete all required domain tests due to the ordered school-building closure, or other reasons such as spring break or absence will receive a proficiency status of Progressing or Emerging, as described in the [Spring 2020 Understanding OELPA Results Manual](#).

- **Students who score Proficient.** Students who achieve a proficiency status of Proficient will exit English learner status and be reclassified accordingly.
- **Students who score Progressing or Emerging.** For students who achieve a proficiency status of Progressing or Emerging, schools will determine and provide the appropriate services to ensure students’ development of English language proficiency and access to the curriculum.

For questions about the Spring 2020 OELPA results, please email [statetests@education.ohio.gov](mailto:statetests@education.ohio.gov).

New! OELPA Family Reports
OELPA Family Reports from the 2020 spring administration will be delivered to schools and districts. A communication will be sent when the date of the delivery is finalized. Districts and schools should arrange staff to sign for the delivery. [Translated family reports for OELPA results](#) are available on the Department website to help schools notify parents about their child’s achievement on the OELPA.

New! OELPS for School Year 2020-2021
The Ohio English Language Proficiency Screener (OELPS) is scheduled to be available the week of August 6, 2020, to assist schools in identifying students as English learners for the 2020-2021 school year.

ELPA21 Resources for Remote English Learner Instruction
To support English learners’ learning at home, ELPA21 has curated a collection of [resources for families and educators of English learners](#). The collection includes ELPA21 practice tests (with instructions in multiple languages) and a variety of language learning resources.

New! Updates to the AASCD Online Practice Tests
The AASCD online practice tests will be updated for the 2020-2021 school year on June 30. Updates for the June 30 release include the following:

- Increasing the number of questions to 20 per test;
- Removing the password requirement to exit out of full screen mode;
- Adding the early stopping rule after the first 4 items of each test; and
• Adding item-level scoring for each question and a score summary at the end of each practice test, similar to what is currently available on OST practice tests.

Students can access the Practice Test Site on the AASCD test portal via any supported web browser. The Practice Test Site allows students to experience the sign-in process, navigate the online testing system, use the available tools and features and become familiar with online testing. Administrators should access the TA Practice Site on the AASCD test portal to experience starting a session, approving students to test and to become familiar with online testing, prior to administering the spring 2021 AASCD Operational Field Test.

The 2020-2021 AASCD Practice Site Guidance Document will be available on the AASCD test portal on June 30. Please review this guidance document for details on using the online practice test sites. AASCD Practice Test Scoring Guides will also be made available on June 30 under the Student Practice Resources page of the AASCD test portal. These scoring guides will provide the extended standard, item target level, access limitations, answer key, reporting category and notes on scoring information for each item on the AASCD half-length practice tests. They will also include screen shots and the scripts for each stimulus and item.

New! Spring 2020 AASCD Score Reports
Due to the school building closures caused by the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Department was unable to meet with educators to establish performance standards for the new AASCD. Without cut scores, students who completed AASCD testing in the spring cannot be assigned scores and districts will not receive score reports for the 2020 AASCD administration. The postponed standard setting has been rescheduled for spring 2021.

Return of AASCD Spring 2020 Testing Materials
Districts are requested to return spring 2020 AASCD secure testing materials to the vendor when the district feels it is safe to return to the building to do so. Districts that are returning materials should contact the Ohio Help Desk at 1-877-231-7809 and select option 7, or email the Ohio Help Desk at ohhelpdesk@air.org and provide the date and time range for the pickup (please provide the earliest available pickup time and the latest). Districts may also drop-off their secure materials directly to a UPS store for return shipment.

Districts that are not returning to the building within the next few weeks should continue to maintain the materials under proper security procedures outlined in the AASCD Test Administration Manual until such time as they can return them safely.

Secure test materials for the AASCD are the following:
• test booklets;
• stimulus booklets
• paper response options (including the plastic bags that they were packaged in); and
• optional student response forms (if used).

New! 2020 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Revised (KRA-R)
The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Revised (KRA-R) is the result of improvement recommendations made by a group of Ohio educators and stakeholders who met in 2018 and 2019. The KRA-R is significantly
shorter and comprised of items teachers already know and have been using for the KRA in past years. This replaces the KRA that was used in kindergarten classrooms from 2014-2019.

**New! KRA-R Materials**
New assessment kits will be shipped to each district before the end of June (unless your district made other arrangements with the Department). Click here to look up the number of kits ordered for your district and the shipping address. If you need additional kits or have questions about the kits, please send an email to KRAHelp@education.ohio.gov. Please do not destroy the kits used in previous years. Wait until you receive notification about destruction of kits before disposing of older kits.

**New! Assessment Data Managers**
Each participating school or district **must assign an Assessment Data Manager-Preschool and Kindergarten** in OEDS. Districts that have at least one Assessment Data Manager-Preschool and Kindergarten in OEDS will have access to Ready for Kindergarten Online system. To learn how to assign roles in OEDS, please see this Assigning Roles Guidance Document found on the OEDS Webpage here.

**New! KRA-R Training for NEW Kindergarten Teachers Only**
The training for new teachers who will administer the assessment is scheduled in STARS. This year the Department is offering KRA-R teacher trainings 100% online. Trainings are available now and will continue through September and October, if needed.

This training is **required** for teachers who will be administering the KRA-R during the 2020-2021 school year who have **not previously completed a KRA training**. Only kindergarten teachers who have not previously been trained on the KRA should register. Teachers who have previously completed trainings should not take this training. Topics covered will include the purpose of the assessment, the structure of the assessment, preparing for administration, using the KReady online technology system, scoring items, test security, administration for students with disabilities and administration for English Learners.

**New! KRA-R Update Training for Returning Kindergarten Teachers**
An online KRA-R Update training will be available later this summer for teachers who have previously completed a KRA training for a prior year administration. The KRA-R Update training will give an overview of how the new assessment is similar and different from the previous version. Teachers will not need to register for this training. It will be posted online and available on-demand.

**New! KRA-R Administration Window**
Schools and districts can begin the KRA-R administration starting the first day of school, or the first day that schools and districts take attendance for students who are enrolled in kindergarten. Additionally, schools have the option to begin the administration of KRA-R selected response and performance task items up to two weeks prior to the first day of kindergarten. The administration window closes on **Nov. 1**.

**New! Who can administer the KRA-R to students?**
Educators who administer the assessment must
- be employed by the student’s school or district;
- hold a valid Ohio Department of Education-issued permit, license or certificate; and
- have successfully completed the required Kindergarten Readiness Assessment training.
The Department recommends that each student’s primary classroom teacher or another teacher who has regular contact with the student(s) (e.g., an intervention specialist or reading specialist) administer the assessment.

Other employees of the district may provide support to teachers with assessment administration. Literacy specialists, intervention specialists, English language specialists, physical education teachers and other related services personnel who regularly work with a specific child or groups of children, would be appropriate test administrators for some or all assessment items. Individuals who do not work regularly with kindergarten students, such as retired teachers employed by districts as contractors or substitutes, may administer the assessment if they meet the requirements above.

District employees who hold an Ohio Department of Education-issued license, permit or certificate who have not completed a KRA or KRA-R teacher training can support teachers with completing the assessments in several other ways:

- Preparing manipulatives;
- Teaching the class while the primary classroom teacher administers direct assessment items; and
- Monitoring children completing technology-administered assessment items.

For more information, please contact
Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Website
KRAHelp@education.ohio.gov

KRA Help Desk
http://www.ohio-k12.help/

Contact Information
Elizabeth.Agnew@education.ohio.gov
Megan.Shuler@education.ohio.gov

Online Testing Technology: 2020-2021
Reminder: Microsoft stopped supporting Windows 7, Windows Server 2008 and 2008 R2 after Jan. 14, 2020. Microsoft will no longer provide security patches or updates for these operating systems. When an operating system manufacturer ends support for an operating system in the middle of the school year, the Department maintains support for that operating system until the end of the school year. Testing support for Windows 7 will no longer be available after the 2019-2020 school year. Schools and districts that have not upgraded from Windows 7 by the end of the school year must plan to do so before the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update on Ordered School - Building Closure
The Department continues to provide updates on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information webpage. Recent additions provide information on graduation ceremonies and gifted education.

Updates for state testing information cover multiple testing programs and available resources.
The Department will provide updates as they become available and as we achieve a better understanding of the future impact of the current crisis.