

Timeline and Summary of Options for 2018 Grades 3-8 Test Design

There has been considerable interest in reducing the length the Grades 3-8 English language arts and mathematics assessments. One way of achieving this would be to eliminate one session from each test. Below are our two options:

Option 1: Retain Current 3-Session Test

Description

Under this option, there would be no change to the current test design or administration.

PROS

- Allows for longitudinal comparisons of student results beginning in 2016
- Maintains released exam schedule that was used by districts to plan calendars
- Retains familiar design for students, teachers and administrators
- Maintains strong psychometric qualities
- Does not require a standard setting meeting

CONS

- Does not reduce testing time and associated activities (e.g., scoring)
- Complete recommendation of Governor’s Task Force would be implemented in the spring of 2020

Standards and Assessment Transition for Option 1

Timeframe	Activity
July 2017	Adoption of Next Generation Standards
2017-18 School Year	Current standards and assessments; PD on Next Generation Standards
2018-19 School Year	Current standards and assessments; PD on Next Generation Standards
September 2019	Full Implementation of the Next Generation Standards
Spring 2020	New assessments measuring Next Generation Standards

Option 2: Shorten Test to 2 Sessions

Description

Under this option, the test design would be reduced to 2 sessions per subject for all grades. Most or all three-point constructed-response questions from the mathematics tests will be eliminated and one 4-pt constructed-response questions for the ELA test would be eliminated.

PROS

- Reduces overall student testing time and increases instruction time
- May make it easier for schools to transition to CBT as there are fewer sessions
- Reduces scoring time for schools and requires fewer scoring materials
- May help encourage test participation
- More quickly implements the recommendation of Governor's Task Force

CONS

- Longitudinal comparisons of results are not appropriate
- Change in design will require a standard setting. There is only a provision for one standard setting meeting in the vendor contract which is intended to be used for the new tests measuring the new standards. Additional costs will be incurred and results will not be available until mid-August 2018.
- Specifics of design change (i.e., number/types of questions) must be made without educator input due to limited time.
- To provide sufficient score reliability, it will be necessary for some of the sessions to be slightly longer than in the current design.
- Elimination of certain question types limits students' opportunities to demonstrate more extensive problem solving.

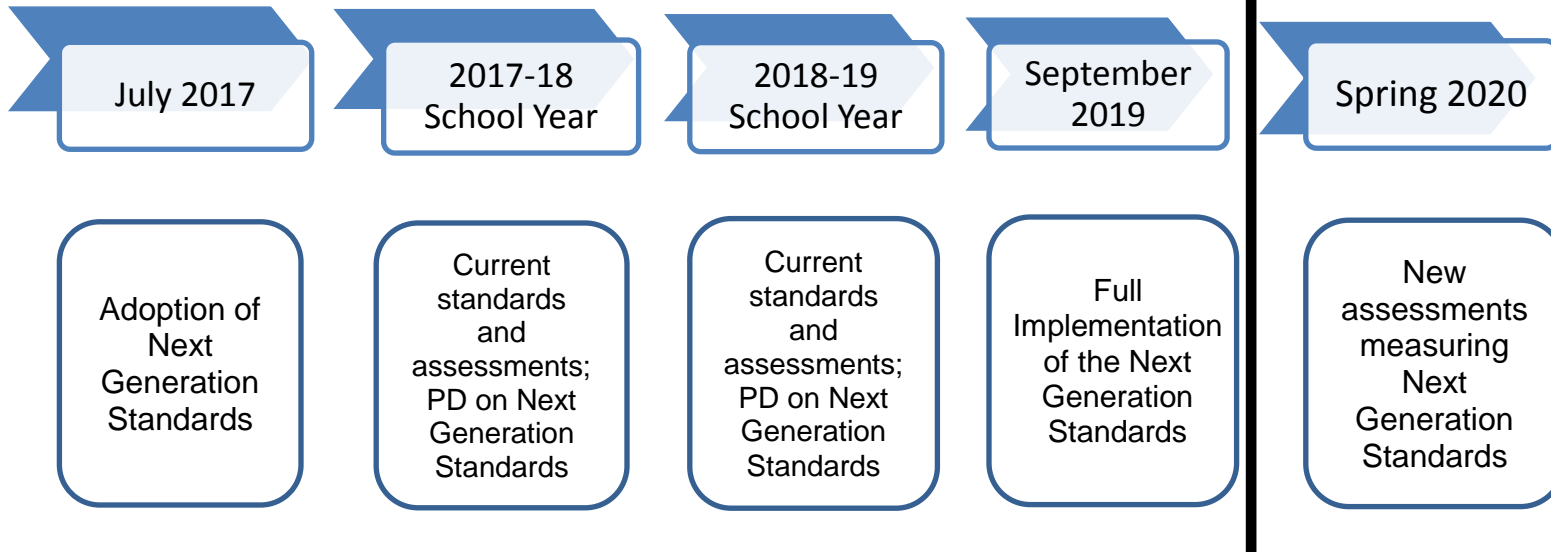
Standards and Assessment Transition for Option 2

Timeframe	Activity
July 2017	Adoption of Next Generation Standards
2017-18 School Year	New 2-day assessment measuring current standards; PD on Next Generation Standards
2018-19 School Year	2-day assessment measuring current standards; PD on Next Generation Standards
2019-20 School Year	2-day assessment measuring current standards; PD on Next Generation Standards
September 2020	Full Implementation of the Next Generation Standards
Spring 2021	New assessments measuring Next Generation Standards

Standards and Assessment Transition for Option 1

Trend Line: 2016-2019

Trend Line: 2020 onward



Standards and Assessment Transition for Option 2

Trend Line: 2016-2017

Trend Line: 2018-2020

Trend Line: 2021 onward

