



# Hickory Public Schools

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Jennifer S. Griffin, Ed.D., Superintendent

Monday, August 28th, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to the 2023-24 school year. We are excited to have students back in our building and can't wait to get this year started! In accordance with North Carolina State Board of Education Policy TEST-001, this information is provided to parents regarding the districtwide and state-mandated tests students will be required to take during the 2023-2024 school year. Some assessments are formative, providing information to instructors and given throughout the school year. Some assessments are summative and are given at the end of a unit, grading period or school year.

Students are not allowed to opt out of required state testing. NC general statutes §115C-549, 550, 557 and 558 state the tests are to be administered to those in grade levels each year "to all students enrolled or regularly attending." Because of state and federal laws, all students in North Carolina (including students with disabilities) are required to participate in the testing program.

For the 2023-24 school year, all schools will deliver state required assessments online. Please note there are a few assessments that are required to be delivered via paper/pencil. These are noted on the attached test calendar. Below is information on state and local assessments your child will participate in this school year.

## **English Language Proficiency State Assessment for Grades K-12**

- The WIDA Screener for Kindergarten (Kindergarten and 1st semester of 1st grade) and the WIDA Screener Online (1st grade 2nd semester - grade 12) is administered to all initially enrolled students within 30 calendar days of enrollment in which English is not their first language.
- All students identified as limited English proficient must be administered the Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners (ACCESS for ELLs) during the annual testing window. The ACCESS for ELLs assessment is an online assessment.
- The Alternate ACCESS for ELLs is an assessment of English language proficiency for students in grades 1-12 who are identified as an English Language Learner and have significant cognitive disabilities. This assessment is administered in the paper/pencil format.

## **State Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities for Grades 9-12**

- NCEXTEND1 is an alternate assessment designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The assessment process requires students to complete performance based, multiple-choice items in the following subject areas; NC Math1, English II, and Biology. This assessment is administered in the online format.

## **State Assessments for Grades 9-12**

- End-of-Course Tests (EOC): Students who are enrolled in Biology, English II, Math 1 or Math 3 are required to take the appropriate End-of-Course test. These assessments are given during the last five days of the semester.
- North Carolina Check-Ins for NC Math 1, NC Math 3, English II and Biology: These are interim assessments developed and aligned to content standards for these courses. NC Math 1, NC Math 3 and English II Check-Ins will be administered two times during the semester to provide immediate feedback on student understanding of the content standards. Biology Check-Ins will be administered four times during the semester to provide information and understanding of the standards. Check-Ins are administered online.
- PreACT: This assessment is administered to all 10th graders in the paper/pencil mode and provides students with knowledge of ACT type questions. The assessment includes four multiple-choice tests: English, math, reading and science.
- The ACT: All enrolled 11th grade students will take The ACT. This assessment is designed to measure a students' learning in English, Math, Reading, and Science. These assessments are multiple-choice tests and are administered in the paper/pencil format.

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- ACT WorkKeys: This assessment is administered online to all students identified as a Career and Technical Education concentrator. The three assessments include Applied Math, Graphic Literacy, and Workplace Documents.
- College and Career Readiness Alternate Assessment Grade 10: This is an alternate assessment for participation in the PreACT and is for students with disabilities enrolled in tenth grade who have an IEP and meet the required criteria. It is a multiple-choice test and is administered online.
- College and Career Readiness Alternate Assessment Grade 11: This is an alternate assessment for participation in The ACT and is for students with disabilities enrolled in the eleventh grade who have an IEP and meet the required criteria. This assessment is administered online and is a multiple-choice assessment with a writing component.

**National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)**

- For each main NAEP administration, a sample of students is drawn from both public and nonpublic schools at grades 4, 8, and 12. (ESSA requires reading and mathematics assessments at grade 12 on a nationally representative basis at a minimum of every four years.)
- This year, both Hickory Career and Arts Magnet High School and Hickory High School were selected to participate in the NAEP testing for grade 12.
- First, the sample of schools is selected by probability sampling methods. Then, within the participating schools, random samples of students are chosen.
- More information to come during the year, but the test date for each of the high schools is listed in the calendar.

See the attached test calendar for a full listing of assessments students will take for the 2023-24 school year. Please know that dates are subject to change. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to your child's principal or me.

Sincerely,  
Jeff Hodakowski  
Director of Testing and Accountability

# 2023-24 HPS Test Calendar

(Dates are subject to change)

## Grades 9 - 12

Date	Grade Level(s)	Test
July 18-31, 2023	9-12	Credit by Demonstrated Mastery: Phase 1
August 29, 2023 - EOY	9-12	W-APT / WIDA Screener Initial assessment within 30 calendar days of enrollment
September 1-29, 2023	9-12	Online Tutorial <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biology, English 2, NC Math 1, NC Math 3</li> </ul>
September 11-20, 2023	10	English 2 Check-In #1: <i>Fall 2023</i>
September 18-29, 2023	9-12	Credit by Demonstrated Mastery: Phase 1
September 25-29, 2023	9-12	Biology Check-In <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Molecular Biology</li> </ul>
October 9-18, 2023	9 - 12	NC Math 1 & NC Math 3 Check-In #1: <i>Fall 2023</i>
October 9-November 17, 2023	10	PreACT CCRAA @ Grade 10
October 23-27, 2023	9-12	Biology Check-In <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structure and Function of Living Things</li> </ul>
November 6-December 8, 2023	12	ACT WorkKeys Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students who are CTE Completers</li> </ul>
November 13-November 17, 2023	9-12	Biology Check-In <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evolution and Genetics</li> </ul>
November 20-Dec 1, 2023	10	English 2 Check-In #2: <i>Fall 2023</i>
November 20-December 1, 2023	9-12	NC Math 1 & NC Math 3 Check-In #2: <i>Fall 2023</i>
November 29-December 6, 2023	9-12	Biology Check-In <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ecology</li> </ul>
December 15-21, 2023	9-12	End-of-Course Tests: Fall 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biology, English 2, NC Math 1, NC Math 3</li> <li>Teacher-made Tests</li> <li>CTE Assessments</li> </ul>
January 22-March 8, 2024	9-12	ACCESS for ELLs Alternate ACCESS for ELLs
January 30th, 2024	12	NAEP - Math and Reading - HCAM 12th graders

February 5-9, 2024	9-12	Biology Check-In <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Molecular Biology</li> </ul>
February 5-14, 2024	10	English 2 Check-In #1: <i>Spring 2024</i>
February 16-29, 2024	9-12	Credit by Demonstrated Mastery: Phase 1
February 19-March 25, 2024	12	ACT WorkKeys Assessment Students who are CTE Completers
February 22, 2024	12	NAEP - Math and Reading - HHS 12th graders
February 27, 2024	11	Spring ACT (Test Date #1)
February 27-March 1, 2024 March 4-7, 2024	11	Spring ACT Accommodations Window #1 CCRAA @ Grade 11 NCEXTEND1 @ Grade 11
February 28-March 6, 2024	9-12	NC Math 1 & NC Math 3 Check-In #1: <i>Spring 2024</i>
March 4-8, 2024	9-12	Biology Check-In <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structure and Function of Living Things</li> </ul>
March 12, 2024	11	Spring ACT (Test Date #2)
March 12-13, 2024 March 18-22, 2024	11	Spring ACT Accommodations Window #2 CCRAA @ Grade 11 NCEXTEND1 @ Grade 11
April 9, 2024	11	Spring ACT (Test Date #3)
April 9-12, 2024 April 15-19, 2024	11	Spring ACT Accommodations Window #3 CCRAA @ Grade 11 NCEXTEND1 @ Grade 11
April 15-19, 2024	9-12	Biology Check-In <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evolution and Genetics</li> </ul>
April 22-May 1, 2024	10	English 2 Check-In #2: <i>Spring 2024</i>
April 29-May 8, 2024	9-12	NC Math 1 & NC Math 3 Check-In #2: <i>Spring 2024</i>
May 6-10, 2024 May 13-17, 2024	9-12	Advanced Placement (AP) Exams
May 6-15, 2024	9-12	Biology Check-In <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ecology</li> </ul>
May 17-May 31, 2024	9-12	NCEXTEND1 (English 2, Biology & NC Math 1 @ Grade 10)
May 24-May 31, 2024	9-12	End-of-Course Tests: Spring 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biology, English 2, NC Math 1, NC Math 3</li> <li>Teacher-made Tests</li> <li>CTE Assessments</li> </ul>
July 18-31, 2024	9-12	Credit by Demonstrated Mastery: Phase 1