

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

SYNOPSIS AGENDA/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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|-------------------|------------------------|
| CODE: | PL-01 |
| COMMITTEE: | Policy and Legislative |
| DATE: | October 11, 2016 |

SUBJECT/TITLE

Multiple School District Online Testing Waiver Requests of General Appropriations Act, 2016 S.C. Acts 284, Proviso 1.88 (Proviso 1.88)

PURPOSE OF REPORT/REGULATION/ITEM

The purpose of this request is to waive administering online assessments during the 2016–17 school year pursuant to the Proviso 1.88.

CRITICAL FACTS

The General Assembly (GA) requires 100% online administration of all assessments for the 2016–17 school year.

Proviso 1.88 recognizes that there may be circumstances which make the online assessment compliance extremely difficult or burdensome to a school or district. As a result, districts and individual public charter schools may ask the State Board of Education (SBE) for a waiver to allow assessments to be administered via paper and pencil.

The following districts submitted waiver requests to the SBE to allow the SC Ready and SC Pass for grades 3–8 to be administered via paper and pencil. These districts cited insufficient infrastructure resources as the reason assessments could not be taken online.

- Clarendon School District Two
 - SC READY and SC PASS Grades 3–8
- Dillon District Three
 - ACCESS, SC PASS, ACT, and Work Keys
- Lee County School District
 - SC READY and SC PASS
- Marion County School District
 - SC READY, SC PASS, ACT, and Work Keys
- McCormick School District
 - ACCESS, SC READY, SC PASS, ACT, EOCEP, and Work Keys
- The Academy for Teaching and Learning, Chester County School District Public Charter
 - SC READY and SC PASS

The SCDE's Office of Information Technology reviewed the districts online testing waiver requests and agreed that the lack of hardware and/or bandwidth will not allow these districts to complete online testing within the testing window.

The following districts submitted waiver requests to the SBE to allow the Access, SC Pass, and SC Ready to be administered via paper and pencil. These districts cited their need for additional labs and laptop carts, HVAC in data closets, infrastructure relocation, appropriate size tables for elementary students, 1 GB bandwidth, backup power supply, newer PC, professional development, and student keyboarding readiness as reasons the assessments could not be taken online.

- Barnwell School District Forty-Five
 - ACCESS, SC READY, SC PASS, ACT, and Work Keys
- Berkeley County School District
 - SC READY, Grades 3–8; SC PASS, Grades 3–8; ACT; Pre-ACT; and Work Keys
- Dillon School District Four
 - ACCESS, SC PASS, and SC READY
- Florence School District Three
 - SC PASS, SC READY, ACT, and Work Keys

The SCDE's Office of Information Technology reviewed the districts online testing waiver requests and agreed that the districts do not have the resources or capability to successfully conduct online testing; however, these districts are strongly urged to conduct testing for a pilot pool of students or conduct practice testing, if feasible, to further identify where upgrades are needed.

The following districts submitted waiver requests to the SBE to allow the ACT and WorkKeys to be administered via paper and pencil. These districts cited insufficient screen and keyboard size and the inability to lock down browsers for security as the reason assessments could not be taken online.

- Laurens School District Fifty-Six
 - ACT and WorkKeys
- Lexington School District Four
 - ACT and Work Keys

The SCDE's Office of Information Technology agrees that districts are at a disadvantage since ACT will not provide a lockdown browser for secure testing nor will Chromebooks or other tablets be used due to screen size and need of a keyboard.

TIMELINE/REVIEW PROCESS

2016–17

The GA requires 100% online administration of all assessments.

June 24, 2016

Proviso 1.88 may allow districts and schools to forgo the online assessments.

August 11–September 19, 2016

Districts submitted their Online Testing Waiver Request to the SCDE.

October 11, 2016

The SBE determines the sufficiency of the districts online testing waiver request.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

COST: N/A

FUND/SOURCE: N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Attachments: yes no
(attachments must be submitted with synopsis)

Name of Attachments:
Multiple School Districts' Online Testing Waiver Requests

RECOMMENDATION

SCDE recommends the SBE approve the ten Online Testing Waiver Request of Proviso 1.88, for the 2016–17 school year.

ACTION REQUEST

FOR APPROVAL:

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: