

**Statewide Faculty Webinar
January 2016
Questions with Responses**

PowerPoint and Q & A

Q. *Will you make these questions and answers available? Can you send us this PowerPoint?*

A. The PowerPoint from the Statewide Faculty Webinar and the Questions with Responses Document are located on the Office of Assessment Web page of the SCDE Web site: <http://ed.sc.gov/tests/assessment-information/archives/presentations-and-handouts/>.

Teacher Certification/SLO/Evaluation

Q. *What is the possibility of removing the requirement for modified SAFE-T required for continuing contract teachers during the year they recertify? Help me with the timeline. I must renew my teaching certificate which is up June 2017.*

A. To meet renewal requirements for a South Carolina professional educator certificate, educators must complete [120 renewal credits](#). To avoid any gaps in certification, it is recommended that educators complete their 120 renewal credits before November 1 of the year in which their certification expires. Educators holding professional certification expiring in 2017 must meet renewal requirements by November 1, 2017, to avoid gaps in certification.

If an educator's professional certificate expires in 2017 and they will not be able to meet renewal requirements in time, they may be eligible for a one year extension beginning in the summer of 2017. For more information, please visit our "[Professional Certification – Extensions](#)" page.

If the educator is currently employed in a [South Carolina public school district](#) or [renewal entity](#), documentation of renewal credits should be submitted to the district's renewal coordinator. Educators employed in a South Carolina public middle school or high school may have to complete [Jason Flatt requirements](#) as part of or in addition to their 120 renewal credits; please contact your district's renewal coordinator for more information.

If the educator was previous employed by a [South Carolina public school district](#) or [renewal entity](#) and earned renewal credits toward the current renewal period during their employment, please contact the district's renewal coordinator to have the credits added to the educator's file.

If the educator is not currently employed by a [South Carolina public school district](#) or [renewal entity](#), they may submit renewal credits directly to the Office of Educator Services. Please keep in mind that educators not currently employed in a South Carolina public school district or renewal entity are restricted to earning renewal credits via [options 1, 2, and 3 of the renewal matrix](#).

For more detailed information, please visit the "[Renewal](#)" page of our website.

Teacher Evaluation

- Q. *Will I be required to be evaluated using the same requirements that second-year teachers currently use as a twenty-year teacher? What is the possibility of removing the requirement for modified SAFE-T required for continuing contract teachers during the year they recertify? Is the SLO going to be okay with a partial year goal for Science and Social Studies as the topics change?*
- A. Continuing contract teachers in their year of recertification will receive classroom observations and write an SLO. Those evaluations are not considered summative/formal evaluations—they are formative in nature. Until the system is fully implemented (2018-19), districts have flexibility in how those observations are conducted. Beginning 2018-19, continuing contract teachers in their recertification year will receive a comprehensive, formative evaluation of practice.
- Q. *How will student growth be evaluated for related arts teachers?*
- A. Related arts teachers will write an SLO.

The ACT®

- Q. *What is the website to use for The ACT? Do we order through this website?*
- A. The ACT-hosted website for The ACT is <http://act.org/aap/southcarolina/act.html>. Materials are ordered through PearsonAccessnext™, which can be accessed on the right-hand side of the page above.
- Q. *What is the definition of an 11th grader? Is it based on 9GR?*
- A. Yes. The 9GR field is used for WorkKeys and the 11th grade assessment; these tests are administered to students in their third year in high school. The 9GR field for students taking those tests in 2015-16 is 14 (which represents 2013-14). See the PowerSchool Specific Fields manual at <http://ed.sc.gov/data/information-systems/power-school-administration/powerschool-manuals-for-s-c-pages/> for details related to this field.
- Q. *Has a testing window been set for High School ACT administration?*
- A. Yes. The test dates are as follows:

	Paper-Based Testing	Online Testing
Initial Test Window	April 19, 2016	April 19 – May 3, 2016
Accommodations Testing Window	April 19 – May 3, 2016	
Make-up Testing	May 3, 2016	

End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP)

- Q. *Returning to the high school testing –with the request to the Fed. Government for the Alg. 1 and English 1 – does this mean, if approved, the U.S. History and Biology will be dropped?*
- A. The SCDE request to amend its ESEA flexibility waiver was approved by the U.S. Department of Education. The SCDE will be using the EOCEP Algebra 1 and English Language Arts (ELA) 1 courses for federal accountability purposes in school year 2014-15 and in future years. The SCDE will continue to administer the U.S. History and the Constitution and the Biology EOCEP courses.

SCPASS

- Q. *Are there particular changes in the SC Social Studies and Science tests or are they pretty much the same as in the past?*
- A. The SCPASS science and social studies assessments will be very similar to last year's; however, there are a few new features this year. Beginning with the spring 2016 SCPASS test administration, the use of calculators will be allowed for the grades 6, 7, and 8 science tests. The SCPASS calculator use policy is posted on the SCDE's web site at: <http://ed.sc.gov/tests/middle/scpass/scpass-test-blueprints/scpass-science/>.

New test items are being field-tested for both science and social studies, and these field test items will include some new item types. The online field test items will include technology-enhanced (TE) item formats, such as drag and drop, drop-down menu, multi-select, hot spot (click on responses, which may be presented as text, images, etc.), and short answer (type in a numeric response). The last field test item on the paper/pencil social studies test may also be a multi-select item. In addition, the grades 7 and 8 science field test items will include some scenario-based questions (i.e., more than one item related to the same scenario).

- Q. *Will grade 3 take science and social studies in the future?*
- A. No, grade 3 students will not take SPCASS science or social studies tests. In 2014, Act No. 200 amended Section 59-18-325 of the 1976 Code by adding a "C" subsection to the last. Among other details regarding statewide assessment, Act No. 200 specifies that the state-developed science and social studies assessments must be administered in grades 4 through 8.

SC READY

- Q. *May we know who won the contract for the test? Do we have access to DRC online resources for South Carolina?*
- A. Data Recognition Corporation, Inc. was awarded the SC READY contract with an effective date of December 1, 2015. The DRC website with general information for South Carolina educators, parents, and students is: <https://sc.drccdirect.com/>.

Overview of SC READY

Q. Can you elaborate on the type of items that will be on the test? Will students have one answer document or a separate answer document for each test?

A. Information regarding the SC READY assessment and all other Office of Assessment testing programs is located on the SCDE Web site. The location for the Office of Assessment Web page is: <http://ed.sc.gov/tests/assessment-information/>.

The table below indicates the types of items that will be included on each content area of the test.

Subjects/Sessions	Grades	Item Type	Item Type Description
ELA & Mathematics	3-8	Selected Response (SR)	Students select their responses from a list of possible answer options. Some of these items may be multi-select items, where students will be prompted to select more than one response option (e.g., "Choose two answers" or "Select ALL..."). The multi-select items may have 5 or 6 answer choices.
ELA	3-8	Evidence-Based Selected Response (EBSR)	These are two-part items. Students read a piece of text or passage and choose the best answer from the answer choices. Students will then be asked to support their response with evidence from the text—e.g. select multiple evidence statements, place multiple steps in correct sequence, place multiple punctuation marks correctly, etc. In order to receive credit for a correct response, students must answer both parts of the item correctly.
ELA Session 1 Only	3-8	Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA)	Students read a piece of text or passage and draw upon that text for their extended written responses—e.g., support their responses with evidence from the text.
Mathematics	6-8	Short Answer (SA) or Gridded Response (GR)	For online testers, students will key a numeric response (short answer) in DRC INSIGHT. For paper/pencil testers, students will grid a numeric response (gridded response) on their answer document. A copy of the gridded response instructions can be found here .
ELA Mathematics	3-8 6-8	Technology Enhanced (TE)	For online testers only, students interact with the item (in DRC INSIGHT) to provide their response—e.g., drag and drop, hot spot*, graphing, etc. Comparable SR items will replace TE items on the paper/pencil tests.

*Hot Spot: Students may be asked to click on one or more responses which may be presented as text, images, expressions, functions, graphs, etc.

Blueprints

- Q. Do you know the total number of test items for ELA and Math? Is the number of questions on each test equal to the number of points?
- A. The following tables indicate the approximate number of items or points possible for reporting categories for both the ELA and mathematics tests. All items, except the TDA, will be worth 1 point each.

Mathematics Blueprint

Points Possible per Reporting Category	Reporting Categories
Grade 3 (50 Points total)	
7–9	1. Number Sense and Base Ten
7–9	2. Number Sense - Fractions
13–16	3. Algebraic Thinking and Operations
7–9	4. Geometry
13–16	5. Measurement and Data Analysis
Grade 4 (56 Points total)	
10–12	1. Number Sense and Base Ten
11–14	2. Number Sense and Operations - Fractions
11–14	3. Algebraic Thinking and Operations
8–10	4. Geometry
11–14	5. Measurement and Data Analysis
Grade 5 (56 Points total)	
10–13	1. Number Sense and Base Ten
10–12	2. Number Sense and Operations - Fractions
10–13	3. Algebraic Thinking and Operations
10–12	4. Geometry
11–14	5. Measurement and Data Analysis
Grade 6 (60 Points total)	
12–15	1. The Number System
8–10	2. Ratios and Proportional Relationships
12–15	3. Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities
8–10	4. Geometry and Measurement
11–13	5. Data Analysis and Statistics
Grade 7 (60 Points total)	
8–10	1. The Number System
8–10	2. Ratios and Proportional Relationships
11–13	3. Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities
11–13	4. Geometry and Measurement
12–15	5. Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability
Grade 8 (62 Points total)	
9–11	1. The Number System
11–14	2. Functions
12–16	3. Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities
12–16	4. Geometry and Measurement
9–11	5. Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability

English Language Arts Blueprint

Domain (Reporting Category)	Possible Points by Grade					
	3	4	5	6	7	8
Reading - Literary Text	19	19	19	21	21	21
Meaning and Context	9-11	9-11	9-11	11-13	11-13	11-13
Language, Craft, and Structure	8-10	8-10	8-10	8-10	8-10	8-10
Reading - Informational Text	19	19	19	29	29	29
Meaning and Context	9-11	9-11	9-11	15-17	15-17	15-17
Language, Craft, and Structure	8-10	8-10	8-10	12-14	12-14	12-14
Writing/Inquiry	46	46	46	46	46	46
Meaning, Context, and Craft	10-17	10-17	10-17	10-17	10-17	10-17
Language	7-14	7-14	7-14	7-14	7-14	7-14
Text-Dependent Analysis*	16	16	16	16	16	16
Inquiry	6-10	6-10	6-10	6-10	6-10	6-10
Total ELA Points Possible	84	84	84	96	96	96

*The Text Dependent Analysis is scored with a holistic rubric with a point range of 1 (lowest) to 4 (highest). To reflect the importance of student-produced writing, the score on the writing is then weighted by a factor of 4 for a maximum of 16 points.

Alignment

- Q. You stated that this is an off the shelf test. This is the first we have heard this statement. How close is it aligned to the SC standards?
- A. Content specialists in the Office of Assessment (OA) have checked the alignment of every proposed item for this year's test, and will for each future test under this contract. Any item that is not approved by the OA will be replaced by an approved item. The only items that may not align are a few of the Terra Nova items. These could not be replaced because the Terra Nova items must be administered as an intact 20-item block. These items, however, will not affect the score a student receives.

Comparability

- Q. How will our state's scores be compared to other states? Will there be a correlation?
- A. The SC READY scores will be comparable to other states through the use of *TerraNova* items. A DRC-owned product, *TerraNova* is an assessment system designed to measure concepts, processes, and skills in the content areas of reading, language and mathematics. A set of *TerraNova* items will be included on the SC READY ELA and mathematics tests. Individual scores on *TerraNova* will be included on the student's score report.

Timing

- Q. *Are students going to be timed on this test? Despite the recommended times, the test is not timed... correct? 2.5 hours for a 3rd grade student to test on back-to-back days is an extremely challenging testing environment for young children. Has consideration been given to decreasing the amount of time that a young child is required to sit for test administration?*
- A. The SC READY tests will not be timed. Estimated testing times, however, will be provided to district and school testing staff for planning purposes. The testing times shared in this presentation (e.g., approximately 2 ½ hours per day for each session of the ELA test) should be considered very rough, initial estimates. Please check the SC READY web page, <http://ed.sc.gov/tests/middle/sc-ready/>, for updated estimates in several weeks. Every effort is being made to ensure that the tests administered this spring will provide valid and reliable results, while minimizing the length of testing time. When the tests are actually administered, teachers may find that students take less or more time than estimated. As with the SCPASS tests, students will code the “Start Time” and “Stop Time” on their answer documents; this information will be used to help the contractor and SCDE make decisions about future test administrations.

Scratch Paper

- Q. *Will there be paper available for the writing version of the test for students to practice?*
- A. Students will have access to scratch paper for all SC READY tests (including both Session 1 and Session 2 of the ELA test). Schools are responsible for providing the scratch paper for students to use.

The SC READY answer document, which includes the pages on which students will write their final responses for the TDA item, is currently under development. Once the answer document is finalized, a sample will be posted on the SC READY web page.

Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA)

- Q. *What was the reason of the new style for the writing assessment? I have concerns that this new method poses a problem if a student struggles in reading comprehension.*
- A. Content specialists in the Office of Assessment (OA) have checked the alignment of every proposed item for this year's test, and will check for alignment in each year of the contract. Any item that is not approved by the OA will be replaced by an approved item. The only items that may not align are a few of the *TerraNova* items. These could not be replaced because the *TerraNova* items must be administered as an intact 20-item block.
- Q. *How many TDA questions will there be?*
- A. There will only be one “text-dependent analysis” (or TDA) item on the 2016 SC READY English Language Arts (ELA) test.

The TDA item is different from the stand-alone writing prompts used on previous statewide tests. Unlike the independent prompts on SCPASS and Aspire, where the writing prompts were not connected to reading text, the TDA requires that student read a piece of text or passage and draw upon that text for their written responses. The TDA is aligned to the South Carolina College- and Career- Ready Standards. The SCCCR writing (and reading) standards require students to provide evidence from text.

- Q. *Are you also testing just comprehension, just writing, or both for the TDA?*
- A. While the score received on the TDA will count as writing points, students must comprehend the text in order to address the demands of the prompt and to receive the maximum number of score points.

- Q. *Can we have access to the rubric? Is the TDA rubric included in the testing booklet for students? On the writing rubric, are the components under the score of 4 equally weighted?*
- A. The rubric or the scoring guidelines are posted on the SC READY Web page at the following link: <http://ed.sc.gov/tests/middle/sc-ready/>. You will need to scroll to the bottom of the text and click on the link that says “Rubric for Text-Dependent Analysis.” The TDA rubric will be included in the student’s ELA test booklet. The TDA items for all grades will be scored with a holistic rubric. The student’s TDA score will be weighted by 4 yielding a range of possible scores from 1 to 16.

Students will also have access to a writer’s checklist to help them plan, write, and proofread their responses. Links to the checklists for grade 3 and for grades 4–8 also appear on this Web page.

- Q. *Can you explain the reasoning behind using a holistic rubric for grading the SC READY TDAs? Is there a reason dictionaries are not allowed on the writing portion of the test as we did with SCPASS?*
- A. The items on the test were field-tested without the use of dictionaries and to maintain the validity of the item statistics they must be administered under the same conditions.

ELA Scoring

- Q. *Will all the multi-select items have 5 choices and will questions be worded to identify they are multi-select? Will questions (on SC READY) with more than one possible answer be identified as such?*
- A. Students will be prompted to select more than one response option (e.g., “Choose two answers” or “Select ALL...”). The multi-select items may have 5 or 6 answer choices.
- Q. *For the two part ELA questions where they have to select an answer and then give an explanation for it, will each part count for credit or must they get both correct?*
- A. They must get both parts correct to receive 1 point.
- Q. *If there's only one answer and a child chooses two, will he or she be penalized?*
- A. The response will be scored as an incorrect answer. For paper testing, the response will be coded as a mult (multiple response), and it will be scored as incorrect. For online testing, students are only allowed to select one response for an answer with one response.
- Q. *Will there be multiple right answers on the paper/pencil as well as the online?*
- A. Yes, there are multi-select items on the paper tests as well as the online tests.

Practice Test

- Q. *Is there a practice test associated with the new test?*
- A. There is not a practice test in the usual sense of that phrase. However, there is an Online Training Tool that presents some sample items in order to get students familiar with the online testing environment.

Scoring Categories

- Q. *In the past, we have had scoring categories for the state tests such as met/not met/proficient/exemplary. What type of scoring categories are we looking for with SC READY testing?*
- A. Performance levels have not been determined at this time.
- Q. *When will districts receive the results of the assessments?*
- A. We do not know at this time.

Sample Questions

- Q. *When will math sample questions be released? Are there any math sample items? Please answer the previous question on whether or not samples for grades other than 4 and 7 will be posted on the state website.*
- A. For both mathematics and ELA, teachers and students will be able to see examples of different types of test items in the Online Tools Training (OTT) that is being developed for SC READY. When available, a link to the OTT will be posted on the SC READY web page: <http://ed.sc.gov/tests/middle/sc-ready/>. The SCDE is also working with the contractor to see if paper/pencil versions of the OTT items can be made available electronically (as PDFs) and posted to the web page.

Links to sample items for ELA grades 3, 4, 5, and 7 are posted on the SC READY Web page. Grade 6 will be posted soon. <http://ed.sc.gov/tests/middle/sc-ready/>

Math and Calculators

- Q. *Are there two sections in the math test for grades 3-5 since those grades will not have calculators? If the math test is not timed, do the students just hand in their calculator and then start section 2? For the math test, will there be two separate booklets?*
- A. The grades 3–5 mathematics tests are not divided into two sections. Only the grades 6, 7, and 8 mathematics tests have two sections: a “calculator” section, followed by a “no-calculator” section.

For paper/pencil testing, there will be a single mathematics test booklet for each grade (including grade 6, grade 7, and grade 8); however, the test booklets for grades 6–8 will be clearly divided into two sections (with clear beginning and ending pages for each section, as well as printed side tabs on each page indicating the section).

For both paper/pencil and online testing, the administration directions for the grades 6–8 mathematics tests will indicate what students should do when they reach the end of the calculator section. The paper/pencil mathematics test booklets will include instructions at the end of the calculator section, telling each student to stop, check all work in that section, then raise his/her hand for further instructions (after which the test administrator will collect the student’s calculator and tell the student to continue to the no-calculator section). For online testing, students will see a special screen at the end of the calculator section that will advise them how to proceed.

- Q. *Is there a reason for the order of the calculator/non-calculator testing?*
- A. The decision to have the calculator section first, then the no-calculator section, was based on feedback from district testing staff.

- Q. *Will students taking the math test have a reference sheet? Will there be any formula sheets provided to math students? Will students be given a formula sheet for paper/pencil takers?*
- A. Supplemental materials such as rulers, protractors, and reference sheets are not needed for any items on the spring 2016 SC READY mathematics tests and, therefore, will not be provided. If a formula is needed to complete an item, it will be included in the item. Some mathematics standards require that the student know a formula (e.g., 4.MDA.3. Apply the area and perimeter formulas for rectangles). The formula will not be included in any item assessing such standards.
- Q. *When will we get more information on gridded response?*
- A. Instructions for the gridded response item are posted on the SC READY web page, <http://ed.sc.gov/tests/middle/sc-ready/>. In addition, the sample items in the SC READY OTT should include an example of a short answer or gridded response item.

Accommodations

- Q. *What accommodations will be available for the SC READY Assessment?*
- A. Information related to accommodations for students with disabilities on the SC READY is available at the following link on the SCDE website: <http://ed.sc.gov/tests/middle/sc-ready/sc-ready-and-students-with-disabilities/>. Included on the webpage is an Office of Assessment memorandum dated December 31, 2015, with an attachment that contains tables of allowable accommodations for students with disabilities and English Language Learners (ELLs). Here is a link to the attachment: http://ed.sc.gov/scdoe/assets/File/tests/middle/scready/SC%20Ready%20Accommodations%20Charts_12_31_15.pdf. The attachment includes tables of tools and supports that are available to all students for both online and paper/pencil testing, tables of accommodations for students with disabilities for both online and paper/pencil testing, and tables of accommodations for English Language Learners for both online and paper/pencil testing.

Appendix C of the SC READY TAM contains information about allowable accommodations and administration procedures for students with disabilities. Appendix D in the SC READY TAM contains information about allowable accommodations and administration procedures for ELLs.

Information related to accommodations for all content areas including writing are included in these resources.

- Q. *Will accommodations for SC READY testing be included in Enrich (the testing accommodation section), options when writing IEPs prior to the end of this school year? Where on the state department website is the information on IEPs and accommodations for SC READY?*
- A. An update is being implemented in SC Enrich IEP that will change the State Assessments section of the IEP to remove ACT Aspire and include accommodations drop down menus for the SC READY assessments. So, any annual IEP (“Add IEP”) developed after the update is rolled to your district will have drop down menus for the SC READY assessments. Also included in the update is a new added action (SC READY Assessments) that can be used to clarify or amend IEPs that are not due for annual review prior to the testing period. The Office of Special Education Services (OSES) has posted a flow chart to assist IEP Teams with addressing the SC READY assessment in the Enrich system on the SCDE website. This is the link to the flow chart. <http://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/special-education-services/oversight-and-assistance-o-a/south-carolina-enrich-iep-system/sc-ready-assessments-flow-chart-final-pdf/>

Additionally, the OSES has provided guidance to Special Education Directors related to addressing SC READY accommodations in the SC Enrich IEP system, including a recorded webinar. Contact your Special Education

Director for questions related to specific IEP planning and guidance (and the webinar) on the changes in the SC Enrich system.

Q. *Is there an extended time for completion of the various test sessions for SC READY and SCPASS? Is extended time available for completion of the various test sessions for SC READY and SCPASS?*

A. SC READY and SCPASS are untimed tests. As long as students are focused and working they can have the time needed to complete the assessment. Responses to the Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA) portion of the writing test must be completed in one day.

Q. *What will the oral administration policy be for IEP students with the SCPASS and the SC READY test?*

A. Oral administration is allowed on the science and social studies tests of the SCPASS assessment.

Oral administration is allowed only on the mathematics portion of the SC READY assessment. In order for an accommodation to be standard, and therefore allowable, on statewide assessments, the accommodation must not invalidate the test results or change the construct being measured. Because SC READY is based on new South Carolina College and Career Ready Standards, a study must be conducted to determine if oral/signed administration can be provided without invalidating test results on any portion or grade level of the ELA assessment. The results of the study will determine if oral/signed administration can be allowed on any portion or grade level of the ELA assessment in the future.

Q. *What supports are in place for our ELL students or Special Education students with reading deficits in regards to the TDA items? Will we be able to read the story and prompt for the writing portion of the test?*

A. The writing prompt on Session 1 (Writing) of the ELA test requires students to respond to a piece of text that they read during the test. This type of prompt is referred to as a “Text-Dependent Analysis” (TDA) item. Because the student response is text dependent, oral/signed administration is not allowed on this year’s writing assessment. This is a new type of writing prompt based on the new South Carolina College and Career Readiness Standards. A study will be conducted to determine if oral administration can be allowed on future administrations of the Session 1 ELA test (writing portion) on any grade level without invalidating the constructs being measured.

Q. *Will students that have IEPs with a calculator listed as an accommodation be allowed to use the calculator on the entire test?*

A. Currently, for all students, calculators may only be used on the calculator section of the grades 6-8 mathematics test. In order for an accommodation to be standard, and therefore allowable, on statewide assessments, the accommodation must not invalidate the test results or change the construct being measured. Because SC READY is based on the new South Carolina College and Career Ready Standards, a study must be conducted to determine if calculators can be used in grades 3–5 and with certain standards in grades 6–8 without invalidating test results on the mathematics assessment. The results of the study will determine if calculators can be used as a standard accommodation on any additional standards or in other grade levels of the mathematics assessment in the future.

Online Testing

Q. *Will these tests be required to be taken on computers by 2016? Students typically don't do as well on computer based tests. What about students who test online who are not adept with their typing skills, for the extended writing response?*

A. SCPASS and SC READY tests are available in both online and paper/pencil formats. Customized formats (e.g., braille, large-print, loose-leaf) are available for students with documented disabilities. Schools can select to administer the paper/pencil version of the ELA test for the grade 3 students or other students not adept in typing.

By current law, SCDE is required to administer the ELA and mathematics tests (SC READY) online in 2016-17. SCDE is currently conducting an in-depth survey of each district to determine computer capabilities. More information regarding online testing for future years will be provided at a later date.

Q. *How will all tests be administered online? Should districts be concerned about the number of computers (or lack of enough computers)? How will we be able to assure there is enough web access to allow all students to be online at the same time?*

A. Technology Coordinators for each school and district should determine the district's capacity for online testing. DRC provides a Technology User Guide which describes the components that make up the DRC INSIGHT Online Learning System (referred to as INSIGHT). INSIGHT is a web-based, online interface used with a combination of software and hardware to provide a secure, online testing environment. It consists of a software interface that is available from a secure web browser and the Testing Site Manager (TSM) to help manage network traffic, maintain connectivity, and handle bandwidth issues. The User Guide describes how to configure, install, manage, and troubleshoot DRC INSIGHT.

The online testing system can be accessed via eDIRECT at <https://sc.drcedirect.com>. The most current User Guide can be found on the Documents page of eDIRECT under EOCEP Fall/Winter 2015–16. DRC INSIGHT software is available for spring testing on eDIRECT under Test Setup/General Information/Downloads. It is available to anyone with the Online Testing-Secured Resources permission.

Technology Coordinator Training conducted by DRC will be provided on February 16, 2016.

- Q. *Will the tools available for students on the TDA questions, i.e. the highlighter, sticky notes, etc., be similar to Microsoft Word or Google Docs?*
- A. The table below describes the tools and supports available to students taking the online administration of SC READY.

**SC READY Online Testing Tools and Supports
Available to All Students Taking SC READY**

Tools and Supports	Description
Color Overlays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students can select from a variety of background colors to increase the contrast of text.
Masking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students can cover portions of the screen with a black box in order to more easily focus their attention on a specific part of the screen.
Highlighter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students can highlight information within a passage or question.
Sticky Note	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students can make notes in a text box within a test question.
Magnifier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students can increase the size of content.
Line Guide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students can use a moveable line to assist with keeping their place in a passage or question.
Calculator—Grades 6–8 Mathematics only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students in grades 6–8 can access a built-in calculator to use only during the calculator section of the mathematics test.

Before the online testing window begins, make sure students become familiar with the online testing system by using the Online Tools Training (OTT) and Tutorial. If students will be testing with supported tablet devices, it is essential that students use those devices when accessing the OTT and Tutorial.

[http://ed.sc.gov/scdoe/assets/File/tests/middle/scready/SC_READY_TDA_Scoring_Guidelines\(3-8\).pdf](http://ed.sc.gov/scdoe/assets/File/tests/middle/scready/SC_READY_TDA_Scoring_Guidelines(3-8).pdf)