

January 14, 2013

FROM: Office of Accountability and Assessments

TO: Superintendents and District Test Coordinators

RE: Award of Grades 3-8 Testing Contract and Testing Updates

The Office of Accountability and Assessments at the State Department of Education is pleased to announce the award of the Grades 3-8 testing contract to CTB/McGraw-Hill for the Oklahoma Core Curriculum Tests (OCCT) and the Oklahoma Modified Alternate Assessment Program (OMAAP). Currently, CTB is also the vendor for the End-of-Instruction (EOI) OCCT and OMAAP tests. CTB's award-winning benchmark assessments, Acuity, which are aligned to the Common Core State Standards, will be available to schools in Math, Reading, and Writing for Grades 3-8. The benchmarks will be administered twice a year with a fall and a winter testing windows. This school year's only window will begin in late February. CTB will be contacting districts in the near future with information regarding Acuity registration and training for those interested.

As in past years, the Wave will be handling the precode/registration for students testing at Grades 3-8. Schools and districts may begin certifying their student data now on the Wave through February 11, 2013, as the final day. Schools should manually mark students directly in the Wave who are participating in the Oklahoma Alternate Assessment Program (OAAP) or who qualify for OMAAP tests, large-print tests, Braille, and paper/pencil accommodated tests for Grades 6-8 Math and Reading. The Wave will provide a file to CTB which will generate labels and paper/pencil materials and upload students into CTB's Online Assessment System (OAS) for Grades 6-8 online tests.

CTB will be providing both technical and administrative training for their online assessment system. More information will be forthcoming from the vendor regarding these training opportunities. Likewise, a *Test Preparation Manual* is being prepared and will be sent directly to districts prior to testing.

As a reminder, the administration of the Writing test for Grades 5 and 8 has been changed to Wednesday and Thursday, April 3-4, 2013. This year, students will be responding to two prompts, an operational and a field test prompt. All students should be administered Prompt 1 on April 3 with Prompt 2 administered on the same day or on April 4. For students absent on these days, make-up tests may be given between April 5-24, which is the end of the paper/pencil, multiple-choice testing window. For both prompts, students will read a paired passage and then respond to a prompt about the reading selections. Standard settings will take place in July for the operational prompts, so scores will be delayed.

Please contact the Office of Accountability and Assessments at (405) 521-3341 if you have any questions.

Joyce DeFehr

Executive Director, State Testing