

PAPER/PENCIL POLICY

In recent years, Denver Public Schools (DPS) has expanded technology access for all students and educators. This expansion has been part of the district's implementation of a voter-supported bond and mill levy to improve the technology backbone and increase the use of educational technology devices in DPS schools. This effort has positioned DPS to successfully support the transition of a number of state assessments to a computer-based format.

Because we have already cleared many of the hurdles associated with technological capacity, DPS will administer state assessments online for all students, except for any student who has need for paper and pencil testing as documented in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan. The district may also determine that a specific grade level within a school will use paper and pencil to complete the computerized portions of a state assessment. Schools have the option to submit a waiver to the DPS Accountability, Research and Evaluation Department to request to provide paper and pencil assessments to an entire grade level. Prior to making the determination to pursue a waiver, school leaders will consult with parents/guardians of students enrolled in the school to collaboratively determine what is best for the children as a whole in the identified grade.

Factors that will be considered in approving a waiver include:

- The technological capacity and resources of the particular school/classroom;
- Students' previous experience with computerized and written assessments;

- Whether the instructional methodology of the particular school/classroom is consistent with the use of computerized assessments or written assessments; and
- The logistics of administering the state assessment in different formats at a particular school or schools.

An accepted waiver would allow a school to test all students at a specific grade level (for all contents tested at that grade level) with paper and pencil assessments. For students with disabilities, the use of pencil and paper, instead of a computer, to complete a state assessment shall be determined by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team or Section 504 team, in accordance with applicable state and federal law.