

Webinar Questions and Answers

Test Delivery System for 2016

November 3, 2016

Q: Does the secure browser need to be installed for interim as well?

A: Yes, for any test administered this year. As you know there are always updates to browser software each year, so this is necessary yearly for any assessment delivered.

Q: Where do we find the trouble shooting page like that on slide #16

A: It will be in the TDS User Guide, although that is not posted yet. You will always have access to these slides until the new User Guide is posted.

Q: What grade level will the Desmos calculator be available?

A: In some cases, the Calculator is only available as an accommodation. There will be some questions in MS and HS in which all students will have access to the calculator. The Desmos User Guide is posted in the Accessibility section of the Resources folder on the Portal.

Q: Did we understand you to say the DESMOS calculator is an accommodation??

A: YES Desmos is available as an accommodation for students on an IEP AND will be used in some MS and/or HS items for everyone

Q: Would we then want to test any grade 12 students who have not previously participated in an ISAT assessment in HS for graduation purposes? If so, did you say we need to go in and manually set them up, we cannot upload a file of Gr 12 students?

A: Some districts are having 12th grade students take the 11th grade ISAT if they have not previously participated in the Assessment. Grade 12 students can be added the same way other students are added to TIDE. If students test off grade level, 12th taking an 11th grade ISAT you will need to set this manually per student the same way you do an off-grade level assessment for an Interim test.

Q: Will you explain how a TA is to assist a student in writing the error message without looking at the specific issue?

A: The student should describe what they think the problem is with their item. Have the student explain what they think is wrong and focus on helping them access the drop down in the upper right hand corner to select the phrase that best describes the issue. The student does not have to write. Possible issues are listed in the drop down. The one that best selects what the student is describing should be chosen. The TA does not need to look at the item to verify the concern, just go on what the student is saying about the item.

Q: When you click on the Banner buttons while administering an assessment will it log out the session?

A: It depends on which one you click on.

Q: Can I get the dates for training one more time?

A: Feb 9 Pocatello, Feb 13 Boise, Feb 15 CDA

Q: Do we administer the PT test first???

A: It is up to you at the local level. You are likely to get your scores more quickly if you do.

Q: Selection of Assessments: For Interim can you have a student take any grade level?

A: If students need to have access to assessments outside of their grade, you must select that in TIDE for each student. Select the grade or grades you want them to have access to or choose SELECT ALL to give them access to all grade levels that might be assigned.

Q: How long must you wait from updating a student's settings in TIDE until you can test them?

A: 24 hours or more or less to be on the safe side. It varies, but plan on 24 hours.

Q: Does the timeout work with the PT also or can we keep that open while they are writing their longer responses?

A: The timeout works the same for the PT. The test will stay open as long as they are working. If they stop working for 30 minutes the test will close for security reasons.

Q: Do you have a recommendation for how to manage this issue with students that prepare their response on scratch paper taking longer than the 30 minutes allowed?

A: Students who do not touch the computer for 30 minutes should be advised to just type one letter to reset the clock before 30 min. is up, then erase it once they are ready to type in their complete information. They need to interact with the software to restart the clock.

Nancy reiterated:

Pause rules, covered on Slides 28-29, will be strictly enforced. Students will not be able to go back to previous marked for review items once leaving the test. Make sure they understand this.

Live training will be in mid-February in 3 regions in the state:

February 9- Pocatello

February 13- Boise

February 15- Coeur D'Alene

The Test Delivery System is also used for Science, Science EOCs and Alternate Assessment

The Test Administration Manual (TAM) for Idaho will be available in January, prior to the February training.