

AAPAC
2.15.2018

The Assessment and Accountability Policy Advisory Committee (AAPAC) discussed several issues related to the implementation of the Questar 3-8 CAT system. Committee members were able to provide valuable insights, representing their various stakeholders and are making the following recommendation to the Board.

1. Due to the operational field test for the new grades 6, 7, and 8 science assessment items, the data associated with those tests will not be available until the fall of 2018. AAPAC recommends USBE delay the reporting of school accountability for all schools, rather than a differentiated release for schools with and those without grades 6, 7, or 8. They recommend releasing school level accountability to the LEAs on November 26, 2018 with a public release on December 10, 2018.

Considerations in this decision

- A. During the most recently completed operational field tests for math and language arts, the release of school accountability scores was delayed without noteworthy adverse consequences. The LEA's and broader education stakeholder groups are acquainted with the delayed release of accountability when necessitated by changes to assessments.
- B. Utah has 21 school configurations. This increases to confusion if some schools receive their accountability scores and others (containing science in grade 6-8) do not.
- C. We are scheduled to release a new school report card in the Fall of 2018. We believe that if USBE chose not to include 6-8 grade science in the Fall 2018 accountability measure, it may weaken the intended additional value of the new school report card to the education stakeholder groups.
- D. We will be implementing accountability changes in the Fall of 2018. Either leaving science out of the calculation for 2018 or releasing accountability data for only schools that don't have grades 6-8 may contribute to confusion in the greater education community.
- E. The Title I program utilizes the school accountability data to identify the lowest performing schools to allocate additional school improvement funding for targeted assistance. This school identification process is directly impacted by this decision. The USBE Director of Title I was involved in developing and supports this recommendation.
- F. It is possible/likely that Utah will have new science standards in grades 4 & 5 in the next couple of years, necessitating another operational field test for the newly written assessment items. How we decide to handle this accountability release in 2018 will likely impact the future accountability release.