iMSSA FAQs

Last updated: 11/29/2022

This document is a living document and will be revised as we receive more questions. Please check back often to receive updated information.

General Questions

- **Do items on iMSSA reflect the diversity of students in New Mexico?**
  - All new items are reviewed by educator committees for bias and sensitivity before being selected for field testing. Educators and other expert stakeholders from around the world participate in the review committees. Close to 130 professionals took part in more than 20 content reviews, and more than 85 participated in bias and sensitivity reviews. After items are field tested, item statistics are analyzed for bias against diverse subgroups of students, such as females, low-income students, English Learners, etc. If an item unfairly discriminates against a group, it may be eliminated from the test.

- **Will New Mexico educators have the opportunity to review and write items for iMSSA?**
  - The items on the iMSSA begin as items on the summative assessment and follow the process above. New Mexico educators have seats on the review committees that are described above. The items on the iMSSA are reviewed, not written by educators.

- **Do the interim assessments replace the need for a summative? If we administer the BOY, MOY, and EOY iMSSA, do we still need to administer the NM-MSSA summative assessment?**
  - The NM-MSSA is the state's federally required summative assessment; all students must participate.
  - Cognia's iMSSA is an optional interim assessment.
  - There are K5+ requirements per the 2022-2023 Assessment schedule.

- **Can schools only use the formative assessments or do we have to use both?**
  - You can choose to use either.

- **What grades and contents are available for the iMSSA assessments?**
  - iMSSA is available for grades 3-8
  - iMSSA is available for English Language Arts and Mathematics contents

- **What is the cost to the district to administer this program?**
  - This is a state-supported program provided at no cost to the district.

Administration Questions

- **How do we roster our students for iMSSA administration?**
  - There will be no PED or Cognia loading of students for iMSSA administration.

Districts will be rostering their own students into the iTester platform. This rostering can be done by uploading individual students or taking advantage of the bulk upload windows that precede each administration.

- Information on how to register for the iMSSA can be found on the Help and Support site. Please keep an eye on the PED newsletter for upcoming trainings.

➢ **Are there any common issues with uploading students?**

- Yes, a common mistake is omitting the leading zeros on district code, school code, and student date of birth (for example a DOB of 1/5/2010 should entered as 01/05/2010). Another common issue is not populating the accommodation fields in the file. If accommodation status is unknown at the time of Pre-ID upload, enter a "0" in the accommodation's fields in the Pre-ID upload file. DTCs & STCs can add accommodations manually later or in bulk using the accommodation upload feature (see Portal User Guide, pages 33-34).

➢ **What accommodations are available for the administration?**

- There is a document on the Help and Support site that outlines all universal tools, accessibility features, and accommodations available for each type of assessment. You can access that document by clicking the link here.

➢ **Is there a paper-based administration option for iMSSA?**

- Yes. The assessments are available for districts to print in standard size and Large Print. BRF files are also available to print Braille forms. To request these documents, submit the "Request Accommodated Test Forms" application from the Help and Support site on the iMSSA tab.

➢ **Can students test using a kiosk, or do they need to use the browser?**

- Students can use either a kiosk or a browser. If students use a browser, they can navigate to https://newmexico.cognia.org/student/login to log into the test. If they use a kiosk, they should use the New Mexico Summative Assessment Kiosk, provided for the Spring 2022 assessment. If the kiosk was installed for Spring 2022 assessments, it can be used for any interim and formative assessments administered between now and the time new kiosks are available in late 2022. The kiosks can also be downloaded and installed as per the Kiosk installation manual.

- New kiosks will be made available October 2022 and will be required for the Spring summative assessments and any interim or formative assessments that you choose to administer using a kiosk after that time.

➢ **Where can I find the manuals to support administration?**

- All the manuals are posted to the Help and Support site on the iMSSA Manuals Tab. The computer-based manuals that will support all administrations are posted to the CBT guides tab.

➢ **Is there a Spanish version of the iMSSA test administration manual for the Spanish math sessions?**

- No, there is no Spanish version of the iMSSA manual.

- In keeping with the administration procedures last year, the TAM is permitted to be locally translated if the district finds it necessary to have a Spanish version.

➢ **Can I schedule my iMSSA tests before the testing window opens?**
  - No. iMSSA test scheduling starts when the testing window opens.

Content-based Questions

➢ **Are iMSSA assessments standards-based?**

  - iMSSA assessment items are aligned to College and Career Readiness Standards, such as the Common Core State Standards and similar state standards.

➢ **Is the content available in Spanish?**

  - The math content is available in Spanish.

Reporting Questions

➢ **When will report information be available for students who have completed the iMSSA assessment?**

  - Report information will be available to teachers in Data Interaction (the iTester reporting tool for schools) the day after students finish testing.

  - Information will be available to families through the Parent Portal one week after the close of the administration window.

➢ **Where can I find information about the reporting capabilities?**
  - Please see the iMSSA training posted to the Training tab of the Help and Support Site.
  - You can also find the information in the NMPED Assessments Data Interaction Reporting User Guide under the online testing CBT guides section found here: https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/cbt-guides/

➢ **Will the mean scores columns for school, district, and state be available on the iMSSA item analysis report right after the testing window closes?**
  - Yes, you will be able to see the mean scores columns for school, district and state on the iMSSA item analysis report right after the testing window closes.

➢ **Is there a way for schools to identify which students got the items correctly or incorrectly within the item analysis report for iMSSA?**
  - At this time, the answer is no. The most granular level is at the school level.

➢ **Aside from the Data Interaction Portal Guide, is there another guide or reference that explains how each column in the item analysis report must be interpreted?**
  - There is a one-pager for the iMSSA data definitions guide in the Page here. If more support is needed, please feel free to contact our Client Care team.