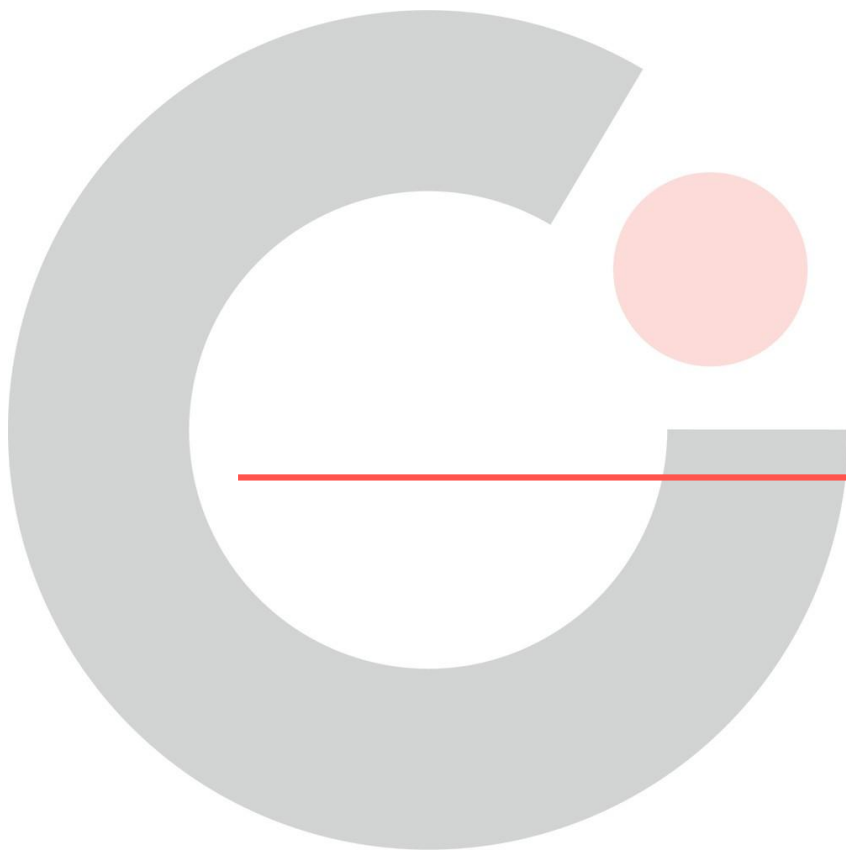
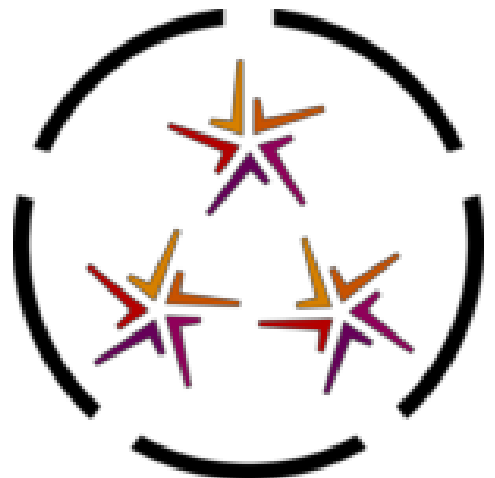




NM-iMSSA FAQs



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



Purpose

This FAQ provides districts and schools with quick answers about iMSSA availability, administration, accommodations, reporting, and support resources for the current school year.

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 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 item review process indicated above.
- New Mexico educators have seats on the review committees that are described above. The items on the iMSSA are reviewed, not written by New Mexico 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.
- Please also note PED's reference to state-specified interim assessments for designated schools in CSI and CSI-MRI status in its April 2025 communication to LEAs.

Can schools only use the formative assessments or do we have to use both?

Schools may choose to use formative assessments, iMSSA interim assessments, or both, depending on their instructional and assessment needs.

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. Mathematics is available in both English and Spanish.

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 for each interim administration.
- Information on [how to register for the iMSSA](https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/resources-imssa) can be found on the Help and Support site, <https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/resources-imssa>.
- 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 leading zeros in the district code, school code, and student date of birth. For example, a DOB of 1/5/2010 should be 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 the Pre-ID upload, enter “0” in the accommodation fields in the Pre-ID upload file.
- DTCs and STCs can add accommodations manually later or in bulk using the accommodation upload feature. For more information, see pages 43-49 of the *Portal User Guide*, available on the Help and Support site: <https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/resources-cbt>.
- Helpful video tutorials are also available on the Help and Support site: <https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/training-tutorials>.

What accommodations are available for the interim administrations?

- The Help and Support site includes a document that outlines the universal tools, accessibility features, and accommodations available for interim administrations. Look for *Interims Universal Tools, Accessibility, and Accommodations* for the current school year under iMSSA Interims (BOY, MOY, EOY):

<https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/resources-accommodations>.

- There is a document on the Help and Support site that outlines all universal tools, accessibility features, and accommodations available for interims titled *Interims Universal tools, Accessibility, and Accommodations* followed by the school year. You can access that document by clicking the link [here](#) under iMSSA Interims (BOY, MOY, EOY).

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, click on the [Request Accommodated Test Forms](#) button from the Help and Support site, <https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/resources-imssa>.

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 students use a kiosk, they should use the *New Mexico Public Education Department Assessments Kiosk* provided for the current assessment administration, available on the online testing portal: <https://newmexico.cognia.org>.
- If the kiosk was installed for the current administration assessments, it can be used for any interim assessments administered between now and the time new kiosks are available for the following year's spring administration.
- The kiosks can also be downloaded and installed using the *NMPED Assessments Kiosk Installation Guide 2025-2026*, available on the Help and Support site: <https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/resources-cbt/>.

Where can I find the manuals to support iMSSA administration?

- All manuals are posted on the iMSSA Manuals tab of the Help and Support site: <https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/manuals-imssa>.
- All the manuals are posted to the Help and Support site on the Manuals Tab for iMSSA, <https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/manuals-imssa>.
- Computer-based testing guides that support all administrations are posted on the Resources tab, under the Computer-Based Testing guides section: <https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/resources-cbt>.

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 for the previous years, 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 iMSSA 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?

- Only 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), <https://newmexico.cognia.org>, the day after (24 hours later or the next business day) students finish testing.
- Information will be available to families through the [Family Portal](#) one week after the close of the administration window.
- For specific iMSSA key dates, refer to the current school year's [NM-iMSSA Math, ELA Key Dates](#) document, available in the Key Dates section of the Help and Support site homepage: <https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/>.

Where can I find information about the reporting capabilities?

- A recording and documentation about the online reporting system are available on the Training tab of the Help and Support site: <https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/training-webinars/>.
- You can also find information in the *NMPED Assessments Data Interaction Reporting User Guide*, located under the *Computer-Based Testing* guides section: <https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/resources-cbt>.

Will the mean scores columns for school, district, and state be available on the iMSSA item analysis report after the testing window closes?

- Yes. The mean score columns for school, district, and state will be available on the iMSSA item analysis report after the iMSSA testing window closes—usually within 24 hours or by the next business day.

Is there a way for schools to identify which students got the items correctly or incorrectly within the item analysis report for iMSSA?

- No. Currently, the most granular reporting level available is the school level.
- For additional assistance, contact Cognia Client Care at 1-877-676-6722 or email nmttechsupport@cognia.org.

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?

- A one-page *iMSSA Item Analysis Report Data Dictionary* is available on the Help and Support site [here](#) within the *Reporting Resources* section for *iMSSA Resources*.
- Additional iMSSA resources are available on the Help and Support site: <https://newmexico.onlinehelp.cognia.org/resources-imssa>.
- If more support is needed, contact the Cognia Client Care team at 1-877-676-6722 or email nmttechsupport@cognia.org.