



JOY HOFMEISTER

STATE SUPERINTENDENT *of* PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT *of* EDUCATION

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Oklahoma School Districts  
**FROM:** State Department of Education  
**SUBJECT:** HB 3218 Guidance

### **House Bill 3218: Effects for the 2016-2017 School Year**

House Bill 3218, recently approved by the Oklahoma Legislature, repeals several provisions of law related to state academic assessments and accountability.

One major change is that there will no longer be a state requirement for Oklahoma students to pass End-of-Instruction tests in order to graduate with a standard high school diploma. HB 3218 directs the State Board of Education to adopt a system of student assessments in compliance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) by the end of 2016, with the new assessment requirements applying to students entering Grade 9 in the 2017-2018 school year (the class of 2021).

Another significant change will be the development of a new school accountability system.

HB 3218 goes into effect July 1, 2016, and school districts have requested guidance on what the changes in law mean for students who are expected to graduate from now through 2020. While more detailed guidance will be provided in the future, the following are highlights of the major changes made by HB 3218 and some of the changes schools can expect for the 2016-2017 school year.

All assessments will measure the currently adopted Oklahoma Academic Standards for the 2016-17 School Year, including the recently adopted Math and English Language Arts standards.

### EOIs and ACE Graduation Requirements

- HB 3218 repeals End-of-Instruction tests and Achieving Classroom Excellence (ACE) graduation requirements as currently in place.
  - o As of July 1, 2016, End-of-Instruction exams will no longer be required for ACE graduation purposes. The EOIs will be replaced with Grade 10 assessments in Math, English Language Arts, and Science for the 2016-2017 school year. U.S. History must be tested once during high school.
  - o The Retest/Winter/Trimester and Summer testing windows will no longer be necessary. A revised testing schedule and window will be posted before the start of the 2016-2017 school year.

- o For the 2016-2017 school year, HB 3218 directs districts to “adopt a plan that establishes the assessment or assessments those students are required to take in order to graduate from a public high school with a standard diploma.” The local graduation requirements policy adopted by the district board of education may exceed state requirements for graduation. Any policy addressing graduation requirements that will be applied during the 2016-2017 school year must be adopted by the district board of education prior to the first day of the school year.
- o Districts are required to report assessment score(s) and/or business/industry certification(s) on student transcripts beginning with the 2016-2017 school year.
  - HB 3218 requires an annual assessment in English Language Arts and Math for students in Grades 3 through 8.
- o Writing tests for Grades 5 and 8 will be integrated into the ELA assessments in those grades.
  - Science assessments will be administered in Grades 5, 8 and 10.

### School Accountability

- In addition to developing a new assessment system, HB 3218 also directs the State Board of Education to develop a new school accountability plan by January 1, 2017. This plan must comply with ESSA requirements and include the following indicators:
  - o Student performance on statewide assessments
  - o Graduation rates for high schools
  - o An additional academic indicator for elementary and middle schools
  - o English language proficiency for English learners
  - o At least one indicator of school quality or student success
    - If the accountability plan developed by the State Board is approved by the Legislature early in the 2017 legislative session, school report cards for 2017 will be calculated using the new plan. Until a new plan is approved, HB 3218 requires report cards to be calculated using the existing A-F system.

### Students Pending Completion of 2016 Graduation Requirements

- For students scheduled to graduate in 2016 who are currently completing graduation requirements, applicable requirements depend on whether the student will be awarded a diploma **before or after July 1, 2016.**
  - o A student who wishes to graduate before July 1 must meet the ACE requirements that are still in place until the change in law takes effect – that is, attain passing scores on 4 of the 7 EOI tests, including Algebra I and English II.
  - o Students who have not completed the ACE graduation requirements that were in place for the 2015-2016 school year by July 1 will need to consult with their district to determine graduation requirements. As stated previously, HB 3218 directs districts to “adopt a plan that establishes the

assessment or assessments those students are required to take in order to graduate from a public high school with a standard diploma.”

- If a student who was scheduled to graduate in 2016 has not completed ACE graduation requirements by July 1, and the school district has not yet adopted an updated policy for local graduation requirements, the district board of education would need to make an individual determination regarding the student’s graduation status.