

Quick Guide to More Learning, Less Testing Act of 2017

House Bill 461/Senate Bill 452 known as the *More Learning, Less Testing Act of 2017* received overwhelming support in the Maryland General Assembly. HB 461 has a number of provisions that impact the work of school systems. The law took effect June 1, 2017.

The law requires the State Board to adopt regulations that limit the amount of time that may be devoted to federal, state, and locally mandated assessments for each grade to 2.2% of the minimum required annual instructional hours, with the exception that Grade 8 is 2.3%. Teacher-selected classroom quizzes and exams do not count towards the cap.

On or before August 1, 2017, and each August 1 thereafter in an odd-numbered year, a County Board and the exclusive employee representative for teachers for that local school system shall meet and confer regarding:

- a rubric for evaluating local assessments;
- the time required to administer each local assessment; and
- the purpose of each local assessment.

On or before December 1, 2017, and each December 1 thereafter in an odd-numbered year, a County Board and the exclusive employee representative for that local school system shall mutually agree to the amount of time in the aggregate that shall be devoted to federal, state, or locally mandated assessments, on a grade-by-grade basis for the following year.

Beginning on or after January 1, 2018, and each January 1 thereafter in an even-numbered year, a County Board shall establish a District Committee on Assessments that includes administrators, parents, and teachers selected by the exclusive bargaining unit to advise and make recommendations in the following areas:

- the time required to administer each assessment;
- the duplicativeness of assessments;
- the purpose of assessments;
- the value of feedback provided to educators; and
- the timeliness of results.

On or before June 1, 2019, and each June 1 thereafter in an odd-numbered year, the District Committee on Assessments shall submit the committee's recommendations to the County Board and exclusive employee representative for teachers for that local school system.

This bill also requires the State Board to develop, in collaboration with county boards, county curriculum specialists in social studies, social studies teachers, and academics, a middle school social studies assessment, and a redesigned high school social studies assessment that meet specified criteria to be implemented in the 2018-2019 school year.

What does "Assessment" mean?

"Assessment" means a federal, state, or locally mandated test that is intended to measure a student's academic readiness, learning progress, and skill acquisition.

The locally mandated assessment is the district assessment program designed to be a part of our evidence of learning framework. As you are aware, in addition to the district assessment program you are working on today, our evidence of learning framework also includes federally mandated and classroom assessments.

"Assessment" does not include AP, IB, SAT (even if administered during the regular school day), teacher-selected classroom quizzes, exams, portfolio reviews, or performance assessments and are not counted toward the requirement.

Furthermore, a student's 504 plan and Federal law pertaining to assessments related IDEA and ELL are not included in the *More Learning, Less Testing Act of 2017*.