

# Operating System Support Plan for Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program 2017–2018

Published September 15, 2017

*Prepared by the American Institutes for Research®*



Descriptions of the operation of the Test Information Distribution Engine, Test Delivery System, and related systems are property of the American Institutes for Research (AIR) and are used with the permission of AIR.

# Table of Contents

<b>Section I. Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Section II. Timing of Secure Browser Updates .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Section III. Support Plan for Operating Systems .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Appendix A. User Support .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Appendix B. Change Log .....</b>	<b>6</b>

# Section I. Introduction

A supported operating system is one for which American Institutes for Research (AIR) provides updates to the secure browser for that operating system. AIR provides these updates as the supported operating systems are updated or as bugs in the secure browser are detected and fixed.

This document describes AIR's plan for supporting operating systems during the upcoming test administration and following years. This plan helps districts and schools manage operating system deployments based on the support timelines. A list of all current supported operating systems and browsers can be found on the Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program portal page at: <http://vt.portal.airast.org/supported-browsers>.

## Section II. Timing of Secure Browser Updates

For major version upgrades to a desktop operating system released before May 1, 2017, AIR will provide a secure browser update for that operating system version for the upcoming school year. For example, if an upgrade is released in April 2017, AIR will provide a secure browser that works on that upgrade for the 2017–2018 school year.

For major version upgrades to a desktop operating system released after May 1, AIR will not provide a secure browser update until the following school year, and the existing secure browser may or may not be compatible with the upgrade. For example, if an upgrade is released in June 2018, AIR will not provide a secure browser that works on that upgrade until the 2019–2020 school year. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis.

For minor version upgrades to iOS, Android, or Chrome operating systems, AIR will provide mobile secure browser updates to ensure compatibility



### **Warning: Support for New Operating Systems**

Operating systems and versions that become available during the administration year will not necessarily be supported immediately. **Do not** upgrade to new operating systems on computers that will be used to administer online assessments without ensuring the updates meet the required specifications. **AIR recommends locking down all systems prior to the test administration window.**

## Section III. Support Plan for Operating Systems

Table 1 lists the operating systems and the anticipated end-of-support dates. The dark gray shaded cells in Table 1 indicate that AIR will end support for the shaded operating systems after the 2018–2019.

- Gray shading—AIR ends support for operating systems after the 2018–2019 school year.

Table 1. Supported Operating Systems

Supported Operating System	Release Date	Anticipated End-of-Support Date	Notes
<b>Windows<sup>a</sup></b>			
7	Oct. 2009	End of 2018–2019 School Year	AIR's support for Windows operating systems ends 10 school years after its release date. For the most part, this coincides with Microsoft's official end-of-life policies for its operating systems.
8.0 (Professional and Enterprise)	Oct. 2012	End of 2021–2022 School Year	
8.1 (Professional and Enterprise)	Oct. 2013	End of 2022–2023 School Year	
10 (Professional, Educational, and Enterprise)	July 2015	End of 2024–2025 School Year	
Server 2008	Oct. 2009	End of 2018–2019 School Year	
Server 2012	April 2012	End of 2021–2022 School Year	
Server 2016	Oct. 2016	End of 2025–2026 School Year	
<b>Mac OS X<sup>a</sup></b>			
10.7	July 2011	End of 2020–2021 School Year	Mac OS X computers with PowerPC processors are not supported.
10.8	July 2012	End of 2021–2022 School Year	
10.9	Oct. 2013	End of 2022–2023 School Year	Apple does not document end-of-life status for its products. AIR recommends using the most recent releases.
10.10	Oct. 2014	End of 2023–2024 School Year	
10.11	Oct. 2015	End of 2024–2025 School Year	
macOS 10.12	Sept. 2016	End of 2025–2026 School Year	AIR support for a given version of OS X ends 10 school years after its release date.
macOS 10.13 <sup>c</sup>	Pending	End of 2026–2027 School Year	
<b>Linux<sup>b</sup></b>			
Fedora 25 LTS (Gnome)	June 2016	End of 2019–2020 School Year	Official Fedora support typically ends one to two years after a release.
Fedora 26 LTS (Gnome)	July 2017	End of 2020–2021 School Year	

Supported Operating System	Release Date	Anticipated End-of-Support Date	Notes
Ubuntu 14.04 LTS (Gnome)	April 2014	End of 2018–2019 School Year	Ubuntu typically supports long term support (LTS) distributions for five years after a release.
Ubuntu 16.04 LTS (Gnome)	April 2016	End of 2020–2021 School Year	
<b>iOS</b>			
9.2–9.3 10 <small>11 Error! Reference source not found.</small>	Sept. 2014; rolling	AIR supports the three most recent major releases of iOS. Versions 9.2–9.3 will lose support when version 12 becomes available.	Supported iPads: iPad 2 iPad 3 4 <sup>th</sup> Generation (Retina Display) 5 <sup>th</sup> Generation (Retina Display) iPad Air iPad Air 2
<b>Android</b>			
5.0, 5.1, 6.0, 7.0 (Nougat)	Oct. 2012; rolling	AIR supports the three most recent minor releases of Android. Version 5.0 will lose support when version 8.0 is available.	Supported tablets: Google Nexus 10 Asus Transformer Pad Asus Memo Pad Dell Venue 10 HP Pro Slate 10 Samsung Galaxy Tab 4 Education
<b>Chrome OS</b>			
59+	Jan. 2016; rolling	For a given school year, AIR supports the version of Chrome OS available at the start of that school year and any subsequent version. For example if Chrome OS version 60 is available at the start of school year 2017–2018, AIR supports that version and any other version released during that school year.	Google releases new versions of Chrome OS every six weeks. Support may require updating the Chrome kiosk application.

- <sup>a</sup> If Microsoft or Apple ends support for an operating system sooner than 10 years after its release, then AIR will stop supporting that system one full school year after support ends.
- <sup>b</sup> For Linux distributions, AIR will end support at the end of a full school year after the official distributor’s announced end-of-life support date.
- <sup>c</sup> Support for this version is anticipated upon the completion of testing following its release.
- <sup>d</sup> Support for this version will begin upon its release.

## **Appendix A. User Support**

If this document does not answer your questions, please contact the Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program Help Desk.

The Help Desk will be open Monday–Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. ET during the summative testing window and Monday–Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET outside of the summative testing window (except holidays).

**Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program  
Help Desk**

Toll-Free Phone Support: 1-844-218-1184

Email Support: [vthelpdesk@air.org](mailto:vthelpdesk@air.org)

## Appendix B. Change Log

Change	Section	Date