



March 2015

March TIDE Webinars: *Click on dates to register.*

Date	Time	
	2:00pm	4:00pm
3/5/2015	Online Reporting System	Online Reporting System

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

We are recommending that each test coordinator register on behalf of the school, and then have key staff view the presentation(s) as a group.

Independent School Phone Conference: TIDE, Technology, and Q/A. Friday, March 6th 1pm-2pm, (audience: anyone). Dial: **1-877-273-4202**. When prompted, enter conference room # **3465078**. The call will begin with a discussion of how to enter student and school information in the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) for students attending independent schools. The call will also provide an opportunity to ask questions on the general topic of SBAC testing at independent schools. Independent school "District Test Administrators" are strongly encouraged to participate. SU/SD District Test Administrators are also welcome to participate.

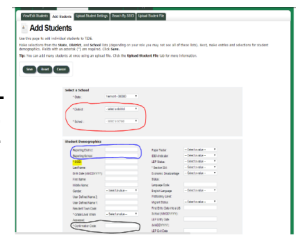
Special Populations Workshops: AOE is available to come to your district and conduct a Special Populations training on Accessibility, Accommodations, and English Language Learners. If you would like to host a training in your area, please contact Linda Moreno, linda.moreno@state.vt.us / 802-479-1309.

Message from the Director:

"The Text-to-Speech (TTS) accommodation in ELA for students in grades 3-5 is a unique accommodation. Entering this accommodation into TIDE can only be done by the District Test Administrator. The reason for this is that the decision to offer this accommodation must be made by the student's IEP or 504 team and the District Test Administrator must ensure that this protocol has been followed." **Michael Hock, Director of Educational Assessment, Michael.hock@state.vt.us / 802-479-1288**

Information for Independent Schools

We have put together a one page info sheet to help independent schools testing publicly-funded students ensure that they are able to manually enter these students into the TIDE system. If you have additional questions concerning this process, please contact Frank Gerdeman at frank.gerdeman@state.vt.us.



Are there still going to be testing exemptions for students in special circumstances? Yes.

Vermont still honors testing exemptions.

1. ALL students. Health, Family/Personal Crisis or Emergency, or Court Order. The approval process should begin with a letter from the principal, to the Director of Educational Assessments, Michael Hock. The letter needs to briefly describe the reason(s) why the student will not be able to participate in testing. A copy of the letter must also go to the District Test Administrator (DTA). Upon approval, the agency will then enter the student's exemption into TIDE. This new process is a change from the protocol used with NECAP because prior approval is now required.
2. English Language Learner's (ELL) 1st Year Exemption from ELA: All ELLs are exempt from the English Language Arts section of federally mandated testing (state tests). This is good for one calendar year from the date of entry into a U.S. School. Please be sure to check student files and verify the entry date.

For more information or questions please contact Linda Moreno at 802-479-1309
or linda.moreno@state.vt.us