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2018 VT Physical Education Assessment Pilot Summary

In 2018 Vermont piloted the Vermont Physical Education Assessment (VTPEA) in response to the Vermont Accountability Plan. The goal of the VTPEA is to assess the fitness levels of all VT students to inform and provide feedback for local education programs. The data from this assessment will create instructional opportunities to develop lifelong and life enhancing healthy fitness habits for our students here in Vermont. The VTPEA expects that all students be provided access, membership, and inclusion in their community and embraces the unique contributions of each student. A summary of the pilot data follows.

Pilot Participation

1. Schools: 91% of schools participated
2. Students: 76% of students participated

What We Learned

With great excitement we can now say that the technology for submitting data for the VTPEA is sufficient as we continue to develop the assessment for operational use. While the technology was sufficient, it was not perfect, and we are making improvements moving forward, particularly surrounding the data reporting for the alternate assessment and the Individualized Fitness Assessment (IFA) portions of the program. We were surprised to learn that 17 out of 295 public schools entered test event dates outside of the test window. As a result, those 17 schools were not included in our data extract and appeared to have not participated. As expected, we learned from the 2018 pilot that FitnessGram and Brockport provided access to many students but were not adequate to provide access to all students in Vermont using the same achievement standards. Additionally, there was unclear and delayed direction regarding data reporting and protocol use, particularly regarding the Brockport Fitness test and accommodations. Due to this we received limited information regarding the students who were unable to participate in the pilot test.

In 2017 the Agency advertised the 10th grade as the only option for PE testing in high school. After a significant amount of feedback from the field the decision was made to offer both 9th and 10th grade as options. This decision was made at a time when many schools had already scheduled the 10th grade testing in their school calendars. Even with the late change 45% of schools made the switch from 10th to 9th grade. We did receive feedback that other districts would have made the switch to 9th grade, but since their calendars were already set they were unable to make the change. Based on this information the test will be required in 9th grade in high school for school accountability in 2019. We do want to recognize that there is no perfect semester to offer a PE assessment in high school, but we hope that this option, along with an extended test window, works for most schools.

AOE Response

In response to the data the Agency will be taking the following actions:

- 9th Grade will be testing as the lone high school grade band.
- The testing window has been lengthened: April 1st – May 31st.
- All test events for accountability must have dates that fall within April 1, 2018 – May 31, 2018.
- Schools are asked to only submit one test result for each student within the test window.
- An administration and Accommodations manual is being written for the assessment.
- Earlier trainings and administration directions for district trainers starting in the fall running throughout the spring along with online training options available for other district staff.
- More extensive and personalized testing options will be offered in 2019 for students who were unable to access the pilot in 2018.

Who should I contact with my questions about this assessment?

- For information about the assessment content and related classroom practice, contact Susan Yesalonia, Physical Education Specialist, at susan.yesalonia@vermont.gov
- For information about test administration and school accountability, contact Gabriel McGann, Statewide Assessment Coordinator, at gabriel.mcgann@vermont.gov
- For information about the VTPEA for Special Populations, contact Linda Moreno, Assessment Coordinator for Special Populations, at linda.moreno@vermont.gov