



The Misguided Push to Reintroduce Standardized Testing During the Pandemic

This past spring, after schools closed to limit the spread of the coronavirus, all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the District of Columbia were given permission by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to suspend or cancel their K-12 accountability testing—something that hasn't happened since 1994, when federal law first started requiring annual exams.


With schools set to resume in the weeks to come, it's still not clear how many buildings will actually reopen. As of July 23rd, more than three quarters of district leaders said they planned to offer a mixture of in-person and online instruction but, as death tolls rise, more districts are announcing each day that 100 percent of learning will be remote as the fall semester begins.

Amid this uncertainty, a smattering of policymakers, educators and advocates are calling for a resumption of statewide testing. The justification for resuming during a pandemic has been that the exams are needed for diagnostic purposes. As Assistant Secretary at ED, Jim Blew, said, "Accountability aside, we need to know where students are so we can address their needs." Similarly, Morath, the Texas Commissioner, told state school board members, "Educators, unless they have some other robust assessment ... can't adjust our educational support of kids accordingly."

Yet statewide exams are not appropriate for diagnosing learning needs for individual teachers and students. Instead, they are designed to assess state, district and school-level efforts to cover a broad set of state standards. In fact, teachers rarely even receive the results until their students have moved on to the next grade level.

For this reason, education officials and advocates in several states say that so-called "diagnostic assessments"—not the summative exams required by federal law—should be administered when schools resume. For example, 10 education advocacy groups led by





Denver-based A+ Colorado, called for state leaders to spend federal CARES Act funds to administer a “statewide diagnostic tool” to every K-12 student in Colorado. Their letter mentions an assortment of off-the-shelf, “well-established and widely-used” “diagnostic assessments.”

Ultimately, Colorado Education Commissioner Katy Anthes said that the state would not use a single diagnostic tool to assess student readiness when school resumes, because this approach would “distract districts from focusing on critical fall reopening priorities, result in unnecessary duplication, and not necessarily be aligned to local curricula.”

Nevertheless, the idea of using such a one-size-fits-all tool for diagnostic purposes is likely baked into school reopening plans throughout the country. For example, the School District of Osceola County, FL will administer NWEA’s MAP exam three times this school year as a “diagnostic tool” and “approach for diagnosing unfinished learning,” according to the 69,000-student district’s state-approved reopening plan. And California’s 16,000-student Cajon Valley Union School District has purchased Curriculum Associate’s i-Ready virtual diagnostic tool to diagnose student learning in English/language arts and math at the beginning of the school year.


Yet National Education Policy Center Fellow and University of Colorado Distinguished Professor and Dean Emerita, Lorrie Shepard, says that a single, uniform, off-the-shelf tool cannot provide the information that teachers need to meet students where they are and teach them what they need to learn.


To be truly diagnostic and useful to guide the next steps in instruction, assessments need to be closely tied to local curricula, in both content and timing, and they need to be responsive to strengths children bring from their homes and communities,

Shepard wrote in June a letter to Colorado education officials. She added:

“The computer-delivered test products referenced in the A+ Colorado letter provide quantitative scores about how far behind or ahead students are (one grade level or two) on broad subtest dimensions such as Number and Operations or Algebra. To permit immediate, machine scoring, these products include only multiple-choice or short-answer test questions. As a result, they do not provide insights into children’s thinking. They have not been built, as are more fine-grained diagnostic assessments, to identify students’ misconceptions.”

The Colorado advocacy groups and others calling for the use of a one-size-fits-all diagnostic tool contend that equity is their goal because educators need to measure





the disparate impact of remote learning on emerging bilinguals, students from lower-income families, and others who traditionally been poorly served by the educational system.

Yet Shepard writes that a set of uniform assessments would disproportionately harm these very students:

“At this time of national trauma, we should not forget that tests have a long history of being the cause of inequity rather than a resource for educational opportunity. For decades, tests - first IQ tests and then achievement tests - have been used to sort children of color and English language learners into low-track classes where learning opportunities and outcomes have been worse than in regular classrooms.... a state can do better than to greet its most vulnerable students with tests specifically designed to quantify their deficiencies.”

Although A+ Colorado and its partners do not suggest using diagnostic tests to retain students in grade, other commentators have already proposed doing so, Shepard observes. Cumulative research results suggest that retention is more harmful than helpful and that it is disproportionately used on students of color. This could compound the assessments’ impact on equity.

How, then, should teachers pinpoint students’ needs when school resumes either in person or online? Here’s what Shepard suggests:

“The sound advice of national curriculum leaders such as Student Achievement Partners has been to use prioritized content standards to scaffold students to grade-level content as quickly as possible. Such an instructional approach can best be supported through the use of open-ended instructional tasks to help identify learning needs in ways better attuned to children’s social-emotional needs. Teachers can, for example, invite children to read and talk about grade-leveled texts, with particular attention to phonological awareness, vocabulary, and comprehension. In mathematics, richly scaffolded performance tasks are available as well as curriculum embedded assessments that can be used to elicit children’s thinking as well as mastery of prerequisite skills. Importantly, these activities do not take time away from instruction and they place teachers in a helping role with their students at the outset of the school year, rather than in an evaluative or judgmental one. This is a more equitable and effective approach than the endless, objective-by-objective remediation that would likely follow from interim assessment results.”


























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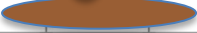


















Tip of the Month

Got Sun? We have Solar. Call CES to see how you can have solar installed with no up-front costs. You only pay a fixed rate per KwHr over the life of the array.

Calendar of Events

- 9/1-3 NMLL Annual Conference - Virtual 
- 9/1 TAP workshops: Understanding Section 504 
- 9/2 VJ Day, WWII 
- 9/7 Labor Day - CES is Closed 
- 9/8 International Literacy Day
- 9/10 NMSBA Fall Region II Meeting 
- 9/11 Patriot Day 
- 9/13 National Grandparents Day 
- 9/14 TAP Workshop: "Managing Behavior in the Virtual Classroom" 
- 9/15 NMSBA Fall Region V Meeting 
- 9/17 Constitution Day 
- 9/18 National POW/MIA Recognition Day 
- 9/21 International Peace Day 
- 9/21 CES Fall Meeting, Region 1 
- 9/22 Autumnal Equinox (First Day of Fall)
- 9/22 CES Fall Meeting, Region 2 
- 9/22 NMSBA Fall Region VIII Meeting 
- 9/23 TAP workshop series begins: SEL Preschool Behavior 
- 9/23 CES Fall Meeting, Region 3 
- 9/24 CES Fall Meeting, Region 4 
- 9/28 TAP Workshop: "The ABC's of Social Emotional Learning for Preschool Behavior" 
- 9/28 CES Fall Meeting, Region 5 
- 9/28 NMSBA Fall Region VI Meeting 
- 9/29 CES Fall Meeting, Region 6 
- 9/30 CES Fall Meeting, Region 7 
- 9/30 TAP Workshop: Linda Gregg & Sunita Smith, "Social Emotional Learning in the K-12 Classroom" 
- 10/1 CES Fall Meeting, Region 8 

SEPTEMBER 2020						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		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 			



Procurement News

1) Contract Expirations

16-024 *Public Sector Admin Software*: SchoolAbility

2) New Contract Awards

<p>2020-31A <i>Cars, Trucks, Pickup Trucks, Vans, Police Car and Public Safety Vehicles</i></p>	<p>Phil Long Dealerships Inc-Chevrolet Phil Long Ford of Raton Chalmers Ford Tillery Chevrolet – GMC Melloy Dodge- FCA Melloy CJDR-FCA Melloy Ford Melloy Chevrolet Tate Branch Auto Group Charlie Clark Nissan- El Paso</p>	<p>2020-31A-C101-ALL 2020-31A-C102-ALL 2020-31A-C103-ALL 2020-31A-C104-ALL 2020-31A-C105-ALL 2020-31A-C106-ALL 2020-31A-C107-ALL 2020-31A-C108-ALL 2020-31A-C109-ALL 2020-31A-C110-ALL</p>
<p>2020-31B <i>Medium and Heavy-Duty Trucks, Truck Bodies, Accessories, Parts and Services</i></p>	<p>Roberts Truck Center Phil Long Ford of Raton Tillery Chevrolet GMC Watson Truck & Supply 411 Equipment Bruckner Truck Sales, Inc.-Hino Bruckner Truck Sales, Inc.-ISUZU Bruckner Truck Sales, Inc.-VOLVO Bruckner Truck Sales, Inc.-AUTO CAR Border International Chalmers Ford Tate Branch Auto Group Melloy Dodge Melloy Ford Melloy CJDR Melloy Chevrolet Inland Kenworth Pete's Equipment Repair MCT Industries Clark Truck Equipment Lonestar Freightliner Construction Truck Equipment Rush Truck Centers of NM HME</p>	<p>2020-31B-C101-ALL 2020-31B-C102-ALL 2020-31B-C103-ALL 2020-31B-C104-ALL 2020-31B-C105-ALL 2020-31B-C106-ALL 2020-31B-C106-ALL 2020-31B-C106-ALL 2020-31B-C106-ALL 2020-31B-C107-78 2020-31B-C108-ALL 2020-31B-C109-ALL 2020-31B-C110-ALL 2020-31B-C111-ALL 2020-31B-C112-ALL 2020-31B-C113-ALL 2020-31B-C114-ALL 2020-31B-C115-ALL 2020-31B-C116-ALL 2020-31B-C117-ALL 2020-31B-C118-ALL 2020-31B-C119-ALL 2020-31B-C120-ALL 2020-31B-C121-ALL</p>
<p>2020-31C <i>Light, Medium and Heavy-Duty Truck Bodies, Accessories, Parts and Services</i></p>	<p>Watson Truck & Supply Tate Branch Auto Group Clark Truck Equipment MCT Industries Construction Truck Equipment AC Disposal Services Pete's Equipment Repair New Way Refuse (Bodies – garbage trucks)</p>	<p>2020-31C-C101-ALL 2020-31C-C102-ALL 2020-31C-C103-ALL 2020-31C-C104-ALL 2020-31C-C105-ALL 2020-31C-C106-ALL 2020-31C-C107-ALL</p>
<p>2020-31D <i>On and Off-Road Trailers, Accessories, Parts & Services</i></p>	<p>MCT Industries Bruckner Truck Sales Border International Lonestar Freightliner Construction Truck Equipment</p>	<p>2020-31D-C101-ALL 2020-31D-C102-ALL 2020-31D-C103-78 2020-31D-C104-ALL 2020-31D-C105-ALL</p>
<p>2020-37 <i>Interactive Classroom Technology</i></p>	<p>Education Technology Sharp DHE Computer Systems, LLC VLCM IT Connect Troxell Team 1st DSI AiSYS Consulting TIG Riverside Tech ProVelocity</p>	<p>2020-37-C101-ALL 2020-37-C102-ALL 2020-37-C103-ALL 2020-37-C104-ALL 2020-37-C105-ALL 2020-37-C106-ALL 2020-37-C107-ALL 2020-37-C108-ALL 2020-37-C109-ALL 2020-37-C110-ALL 2020-37-C111-ALL 2020-37-C112-ALL</p>

2020-38 <i>Public Sector Administrative S/W</i>	Triadic Enterprises Sagecore Technologies Albuquerque Image Products Tyler Technologies	2020-38-C100-ALL 2020-38-C101-ALL 2020-38-C102-ALL 2020-38-C103-ALL
2021-01 <i>Medicaid Billing & Collection Services</i>	Notification: 8/6 (protest period ends: 8/21) Solix, Inc. dba SivicSolutions Group LLC	2021-01-C111-ALL
2021-03 <i>Facility Evaluation and Consulting Services - Capital Outlay, Infrastructure Capital Improvement Planning and Related</i>	Visions in Planning Architectural Research Consultants Northstar NM Greer Stafford/SJCF Architecture	2021-03-C111-All 2021-03-C112-All 2021-03-C113-All 2021-03-C114-All
2021-04 <i>Food Safety Mgt. Servs.</i>	Southwest Training Systems	2021-04-C101-ALL
2021-16 <i>Disinfection and Sanitation, Products and Services</i>	STOP Starr Janitorial Quality Janitorial - North Quality Janitorial Mooring Grancor Rhoads ServPRO Clearly Clean SmartCARE Shamrock Spectrum Paper Sandia Paper	2021-16-C111-ALL 2021-16-C112-ALL 2021-16-C113-ALL 2021-16-C114-ALL 2021-16-C115-ALL 2021-16-C116-ALL 2021-16-C117-ALL 2021-16-C118-ALL 2021-16-C119-ALL 2021-16-C1110-ALL 2021-16-C1111-ALL 2021-16-C1112-ALL 2021-16-C1113-ALL

3) Status of Ongoing Solicitations

2021-05 *Supplemental Employee Benefits -*

- a. Cafeteria Plan (section 125)*
- b. Retirement & Differed Income*
- c. Other Benefits (i.e. cancer, short term disability)*

Evaluations completed. Award(s) expected prior to expiration on 9/27 of current contract

4) Upcoming Solicitations

- 2021-13 *General Office, Classroom & Vocational – Supplies, Equipment, Furniture*
- 2021-07 *Job Order Contracting (JOC) Landscaping*
- 2021-09 *Job Order Contracting (JOC) Mech./Elec./Plumbing (MEP)*
- 2021-08 *Job Order Contracting (JOC) Fencing*
- 2021-10 *Job Order Contracting (JOC) General Contractor*
- 2021-06 *Job Order Contracting (JOC) Painting & Stucco*
- 2021-11 *Job Order Contracting (JOC) Roofing*
- 2021-12 *Job Order Contracting (JOC) Paving & Site Work*

Special Interest Article:

September Equinox: 10 Facts About the First Day of Fall

By Aparna Kher

On September 22, 2020, the day and night will be almost equal in most locations. Here are 10 facts about the first day of astronomical fall (autumn) in the Northern Hemisphere.



September is North's fall equinox.

1. Second Equinox of the Year

The [September equinox](#) is on or around September 22, while the first equinox of the year, the [March Equinox](#), takes place on or around March 21 every year.



2. Say Goodbye to Summer...

...in the Northern Hemisphere. Astronomically, the September equinox is the autumnal, or fall, equinox marking the end of summer and the beginning of fall (autumn). The fall season ends on [December Solstice](#), when astronomical winter begins.

[Meteorological vs. astronomical Seasons >](#)

For meteorologists, on the other hand, fall in the Northern Hemisphere begins about 3 weeks before the September equinox on September 1 and ends on November 30.

3. And Welcome Spring

In the Southern Hemisphere, the September equinox is the vernal (spring) equinox.

The September equinox is also known as the vernal or spring equinox in the Southern Hemisphere and is considered by astronomers as the first day of spring there.

4. A Moment in Time

[Equinoxes & solstices local times >](#)



Equinox at Chichen Itza, Mexico.



Equinoxes are not day-long events, even though many choose to celebrate all day. Instead, they occur at the moment the Sun crosses the celestial equator – the imaginary line in the sky above Earth's Equator.

At this instant, Earth's rotational axis is neither tilted away from nor towards the Sun.

Earth's axial tilt is to blame >

In 2020, the Sun will cross the celestial equator from north to south on September 22, at 13:30 UTC. Because of time zone differences, the equinox will take place on September 23, 2020 at locations that are at least 10:30 hours ahead of UTC. These include cities in New Zealand, Fiji, and eastern Russia.

5. The Date Varies



Statue of Pope Gregory XIII Bologna, Italy.



While the September equinox usually occurs on September 22 or 23, it can very rarely fall on September 21 or September 24. A September 21 equinox has not happened for several millennia. However, in the 21st century, it will happen twice – in 2092 and 2096. The last September 24 equinox occurred in 1931, the next one will take place in 2303.

The equinox dates vary because of the difference between how the [Gregorian calendar](#) defines a year (365 days) and the time it actually takes for Earth to complete its orbit around the Sun (about 365 and 1/4 days).

6. Equal Day and Night...



Most locations on Earth do not experience equal day and night on September equinox.

This means that each September equinox occurs about 6 hours later than the previous year's September Equinox. This eventually moves the date by a day.

Note: These dates are based on the time of the equinox in UTC. Due to time zone differences, locations ahead of UTC may celebrate the September equinox a day later and locations behind UTC may celebrate it a day earlier.

The term *equinox* comes from the Latin words *aequus*, meaning equal and *nox*, meaning night. This has led to the [common misconception](#) that everybody on Earth experiences equal day and night – 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of night time – on the day of the September equinox.



7. ...But Not Quite

In reality, most places on Earth enjoy more than 12 hours of daylight on this day. This is because of two reasons: the way sunrise and sunset are defined and atmospheric refraction of sunlight.

Locations that are not on the equator do get to experience equal day and night twice a year, usually a few days before or after the equinoxes. The dates for this event, which is also known as **equilux**, depend on a location's **latitude** – those closer to the Equator celebrate it a few days before the equinox.

8. Shorter Time Between Moonrises



The Harvest Moon is also sometimes called Corn Moon, after the corn harvest in the months of fall.

The full Moon closest to the September equinox, the **Harvest Moon**, is astronomically special. This is because the time between one moonrise to another around this period becomes shorter.

On average, **the Moon rises** about 50 minutes later every day in a **lunar month** – the time period between two Full Moons or two New Moons. Around the Harvest Moon, the time difference between two successive moonrises decreases to less than 50 minutes for a few days.





The Aurora Borealis can come in many colors.

9. Prepare for Northern Lights

As the September equinox rolls by, the chances to see the [aurora borealis](#) display increases for those located at high Northern Hemisphere latitudes. According to NASA, the equinoxes are prime time for Northern Lights – geomagnetic activities are twice more likely to take place in the spring and fall time, than in the summer or winter.

Known as the **Harvest Moon Effect**, this phenomenon occurs due to the low angle the Moon's orbit around Earth makes with the horizon during this time of year.

The reverse effect occurs in the Southern Hemisphere, where the Moon rises more than 50 minutes later than on the previous day.

[Moon Phases in your city >](#)

In the old days, the early moonrise for a few days around the equinox in the Northern Hemisphere meant that farmers could work and harvest their crops for a longer time in the evenings.

10. Celebrated Around the World

Many cultures around the world hold feasts and [celebrate festivals and holidays](#) to mark the September equinox.

<https://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/facts-about-september-equinox.html>





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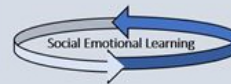
Social is Emotional Learning important because

Benefits:

- Improvements in classroom behavior.
- Increase in self-confidence.
- 11% Increase on standardized scores.
- Social Emotional Skills.
- Better attitudes about school and interactions with others.

Reduces:

- Aggressive Behavior
- Emotional Distress
- Conduct Problems



Contact: Loretta Garcia | lgarcia@ces.org
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TAP Hotline: (505) 985-8454



CES Virtual Academy

for Instructional Professionals and Leaders

In support of educators across New Mexico as they develop their practice in the virtual environment, CES invites you to collaborate on the offerings of the 2020-2021 Virtual Academy. Sessions will provide the opportunity to build student knowledge and skills in new and different ways. Join us as we explore a wide variety of ways to scaffold the expertise you have and find powerful new ways to frame the delivery of your lesson design in “virtually” engaging ways.

Topics Include:

- ❖ *Synchronous Platforms*
- ❖ *Learning Management Systems*
- ❖ *Engaging for Online Tools*
- ❖ *Special Education in the Virtual World*
- ❖ *Leadership in the Virtual World*
- ❖ *Social Emotional Learning for Remote Learners, Teachers and Leaders*
- ❖ *Computer Knowledge*



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