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**Information on the new North Dakota State Assessment  
Prepared for Legislative Management's Education Committee  
Kirsten Baesler, North Dakota Superintendent of Public Instruction  
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Assessment Results**

More than 56,000 North Dakota students in grades three through eight and grade 11 took the North Dakota State Assessment in English and mathematics last spring. It was designed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), of which North Dakota is a member and delivered by testing delivery service, Measured Progress, Inc. through an open-source platform code written by American Institute of Research (AIR).

Of the tests that have been scored so far:

- 46 percent of the students were proficient in English.
- 40 percent of the students were proficient in mathematics.

Almost all of the exams were administered online. About 80 percent of the exams have been processed. The results we have now are expected to be similar to the results that will be available after all the exams are scored.

- About 46,500 complete exams have been processed.
- About 3,700 exams were taken with paper and pencil and are still being scored.
- About 6,600 exams were partially completed and are still being scored.

These results offer a more accurate assessment of how prepared our students are for college and careers. The scores are in line with North Dakota results from other well-regarded national assessments, including the ACT and the National Assessment of Educational Progress. All North Dakota juniors are required by state law to take the ACT, and all North Dakota fourth and eighth graders take the NAEP.

Comparisons with other states are not possible at present. Few states have released complete results. We will share those results and comparisons when the information is available.

**Assessment Task Force**

Superintendent Kirsten Baesler assembled a 33-member task force to explore ways to improve North Dakota's system of assessments. The group has met three times and is meeting again December 21.

Members have been briefed about what assessments are designed to do, what information they can provide, the different types of testing and the strengths and weaknesses of each, and the companies that are in the business of providing assessments.

North Dakota will be using the Smarter Balanced assessment during the current 2015-16 school year, but another option could be chosen in the future. The task force make recommendations to Superintendent Baesler regarding the state assessment. Superintendent Baesler will also be analyzing the system of assessments we have in our schools K-12 across the state.

A wealth of information about the assessment task force and its deliberations is available on the Department of Public Instruction's website [here: https://www.nd.gov/dpi/about/taskforce/](https://www.nd.gov/dpi/about/taskforce/)