

SAGE to ACT Transition

In 2014, the Utah State Office of Education implemented the Student Assessment of Growth and Excellence (SAGE) accountability assessments for all schools across the state of Utah. As you know, students have participated in SAGE assessments every spring in grades 3rd-12th grades. This year, the Utah Legislature made changes in how school grading and accountability will be measured. The new legislative bill; S.B. 220, titled Student Assessment and School Accountability Amendments, passes the Legislature, which will lead to a number of changes in student assessment beginning in the Spring of 2018. Essentially, the bill transitions us from the administration of the SAGE assessment in grades 9-10 to ACT Aspire in the spring of the 2018 school year. The SAGE assessment will still be used for grades 3-8, while the 9-10 grades will be taking the ACT Aspire (which is a pre-test for the ACT), and 11th grade will take the ACT assessment. Grades 9-11th will not participate in the SAGE assessment next spring. With these changes in testing, the State Board will not assign letter grades for schools in the fall of 2018. SB 220 allows for a committee to be created in order to make recommendations to the State Board on the new school grading system (letter grades). Another change: schools will not be graded on the percentage of schools who receive A's, B's, C's, D's and F's, which means under the old system there were always a specific number of schools who received an F regardless of their improvement. Under the new system, performance thresholds are set for each letter grade and if a school achieves the predetermined thresholds, they receive that grade. The state will be under one accountability system. As a point of information, the cost to transition from SAGE to the ACT is approximately \$1,800,000 for the state. If you have questions regarding the SAGE to ACT transition, please contact me at the district office. I would be happy to visit you.

Ben Dalton
Superintendent
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