

## **New State Assessment Replaces SAGE**

On June 7, 2018, the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) approved a new end of level assessment provider renamed RISE (*Readiness. Improvement. Success. Empowerment*), and the 9-10 grade assessment will be a hybrid with the ACT. The ACT hybrid is in conjunction with the Pearson assessment, to offer the ASPIRE Plus test to students in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades beginning in the 2018-2019 school year. The ACT Aspire for all 9th and 10th grade students, will replace the traditional SAGE assessment, while grades 3-8 will be replaced by the RISE assessment, which is published by Questar Assessment, Inc. After the existing SAGE contract expired, Pearson and Questar were selected after a request for proposal (RFP) process. Utah legislation requires and funds a standardized assessment for grades 3-8, and high school assessments for grades 9 and 10. The cost to the state of Utah is \$41,565,145 for the Questar contract and \$38,678,497 for the Pearson contract. Students in grade 11 will continue to take the ACT. The Utah Aspire Plus is an innovative assessment solution that is unique to Utah and will give the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students an experience similar to that of taking the ACT by providing them with a score that is predictive of their college readiness, with a connection to Utah Core Standards. In grades 3-8, the RISE assessment will offer a new user interface with slightly different functionality but will maintain the Utah item test bank of questions. It will also align with student growth trend data obtained through SAGE over the last five years. Additionally, the writing portions on the RISE assessment have been removed for all grades except fifth and eighth, where students will respond to a single prompt and will receive a separate score.

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