

2023 Local Testing Report Two-year Summary Findings

Introduction

General Statute §115C-174.12 (d1) states “in each even-numbered year, each local board of education shall review all local standardized testing administered to students by the local school administrative unit at the direction of the local board of education for the prior two school years, in order to determine the number of tests administered to students and the number of hours required for students to complete the tests. If the average over the prior two-year period of either (i) the number of tests administered or (ii) the number of hours required for students to complete the tests exceeds the State average over the prior two-year period, as published pursuant to subsection (e1) of this section, the local board of education shall submit to the Department of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education, by October 1 of the even-numbered year, a plan to eliminate certain local standardized testing in order to ensure that neither the number of tests nor the number of hours required for students to complete the tests exceeds the State average. The State Board of Education shall waive the requirement that a local board develop and submit a plan if the State Board finds that the local board has made significant progress toward reducing local testing to the State average.”

Further, General Statute §115C-174.12 (e1)(2) states “a summary of the nature and extent of the local testing, including the average over the prior two-year period of (i) the number of tests administered and (ii) the number of hours required for student to complete the tests” must be published annually by September 1.

The Local Education Agencies (LEAs) meet the requirements of this statute by submitting an annual survey to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI). The survey data submitted is used to calculate the two-year averages as outlined above. The LEA must include the name of the test administered, how often the test is provided throughout the year, what grade levels are required to take the test, what subjects the tests cover, and how much time is allotted to administer each test. This data is used to determine the LEA and state averages for the number of tests administered and the amount of time testing.

State Average of Local Tests Administered

For the 2021–2022 and 2022–2023 school years, the local testing report survey results indicated an average of 95.2 tests administered across the state. Out of the 115 LEAs surveyed, fifty-two were identified as being over the state average, which is 45% of the LEAs. Across the state, the averages varied with the lowest average being 13 and the highest average being 260 tests administered at the local level.

State Average of Time Administering Local Tests

For the 2021–2022 and 2022–2023 school years, the local testing report survey results indicated an average of 122.7 hours spent testing across the state. Out of the 115 LEAs surveyed, fifty-two were identified as being over the state average, which is 45% of the LEAs. Across the state, the averages varied with the lowest average being 5.0 hours and the highest average being 334.1 hours spent testing at the local level.

For more information, please visit the [Local Testing](#) website.