

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide answers to frequently asked questions regarding the testing of home study and nonpublic/non-scholarship students.

Frequently Asked Questions for Public School Districts Testing Students Enrolled in a BESE-approved Home Study Program

1. *Do public school districts have to test students in a BESE-approved home study program?*

Yes. State law requires that home study students be provided access to state tests. Public school districts must offer testing to home study students for LEAP or EOC testing when it is requested. Districts can charge up to \$35.00 for testing; however, if the student enrolls in the district in the fall, the testing fee should be returned to the family. No payment is required by DRC for home study students and a participation form does not need to be completed.

2. *Can public school districts apply a deadline or requirements for testing?*

Yes. Districts can set up an application process with a deadline in order to meet any special requirements such as accommodations and to plan for needed materials and technology.

3. *Can public school districts determine where and when students are tested?*

Yes. Districts can decide where students are tested and when they are tested within the LDOE-approved testing window. When adding home study students in eDIRECT districts/schools should use the 998 site code. The LASID for home study students is the SSN with a leading "0" unless there is a pre-existing LASID available to the district.

4. *How are test results for home study students reported?*

Test reports will be posted with other student reports in eDIRECT and should be provided to parents using the district's policy for distribution (i.e. mail, direct pickup). Since these students are not enrolled in the district or a school, the scores for students enrolled in a home study program will not count in the SPS or DPS. If students are

uploaded incorrectly using a school site code, their scores will be included in assessment reporting, such as assessment media reports.

Frequently Asked Questions for Districts or Schools that Choose to Assess Nonpublic/Nonscholarship School Students

1. Do public school districts have to test students attending a non-public school?

State law does not require testing of students in nonpublic schools, unless they are attending nonpublic school through the scholarship or TDR program. Students attending a nonpublic school through the scholarship or TDR program should be tested by their scholarship or TDR schools. However, public schools and nonpublic schools can offer testing services to nonpublic/non-scholarship school students if they choose to do so. To test nonpublic/non-scholarship school students and TDR students, the district or school must complete the [Participation Form for Nonpublic School Students](#). The LEA will submit one form for Nonpublic School Students for the entire LEA. The deadline to submit completed forms to lahelpdesk@datarecognitioncorp.com is noon on April 14, 2017.

2. Do all TDR schools have to complete the participation form?

Yes. The TDR students are not included in the state contract. The TDR STO/sponsor will be invoiced directly by DRC. The school offering the TDR program will submit one [Participation Form for Nonpublic School Students](#) for TDR students. The deadline to submit completed forms to lahelpdesk@datarecognitioncorp.com is noon on April 14, 2017.

3. Can public or nonpublic school districts determine where and when students are tested?

The LEA can determine how and where the students are tested. The tests must be given in accordance with all guidelines for test administration and test security. The LEA will submit one [Participation Form for Nonpublic School Students](#) for the entire LEA. The deadline to submit completed forms to lahelpdesk@datarecognitioncorp.com is noon on April 14, 2017.

4. Will the LDOE be responsible for the cost of testing nonpublic/nonscholarship school students?

No. The cost per content area is \$50.00 and the LEA or STO will submit payment directly to DRC. The invoice will be sent to the LEA for nonpublic school student testers, and the invoice will be sent to the STO for students in the Tuition Donation Rebate program. Districts or schools that provide testing services to nonpublic/nonscholarship school students can determine a method for reimbursement from the students' family that works best for the district or school.

5. *How do districts or schools assign nonpublic/nonscholarship students for testing sessions in eDIRECT?*

Nonpublic, non-scholarship students should be tested under the 997 site code and with a LASID of the student's SSN with a leading "0". Students that are not pre-identified must be manually uploaded to eDIRECT. All scholarship or TDR students entered into SIS by the October 2016 deadline will automatically receive pre-identified materials for testing. The school will need to order materials for students that were not pre-identified through the additional materials process. Materials will be packaged at the school level and shipped to the district. Since the students' physical testing locations could be at various locations within a district, DTCs will need to track the distribution of these materials. Additionally, materials are shrink-wrapped into packs of 10 and a pack could potentially include students testing at different physical sites.

6. *How are test results for nonpublic/non-scholarship students reported?*

Test reports will be posted with other student reports in eDIRECT and should be provided to parents using the district's policy for distribution (i.e. mail, direct pickup). Since these students are not enrolled in a public school or scholarship program, the scores for nonscholarship students will not count in the SPS or SCI (Scholarship Cohort Index). If students are uploaded incorrectly using a school site code, their scores will be included in assessment reporting, such as assessment media reports.