

**1. How will parents be notified of revised criteria and school process for SSA?**  
 All information about SSA will be posted on the district website and linked to school websites. Each year parent night events are held in different geographic areas of the district. The power point and all relevant information shared during this meeting can be found on the <http://wakeacceleration.weebly.com> website.

**2. Who is eligible to be nominated?**  
 Any student can be nominated and considered for SSA to skip elementary or middle school content if the nomination is received [prior to the end of the school day for your child’s school calendar nomination window](#).

**3. What is the time frame for SSA testing for 2015-2016?**

Calendar	SSA Nomination Window	SSA Testing Days
Wake Leadership Academies	3/28-4/10/2017	4/19-4/25/2017
Modified	3/31-4/13/2017	4/24-4/28/2017
Traditional	4/6-4/26/2017	5/4-5/10/2017
Year Round Track 1	4/11-4/25/2017	5/3-5/9/2017
Year Round Track 2	4/10-4/24/2017	5/2-5/8/2017
Year Round Track 3	4/12-5/18/2017	5/26-6/2/2017
Year Round Track 4	5/5-5/18/2017	
Barwell ES and Walnut Creek ES		

**4. How will students who qualify for SSA be served?**  
 Schools will determine their own delivery of content. For some schools, instruction will be delivered through face-to-face instruction. For 5<sup>th</sup> graders taking sixth grade content or middle schools taking high school content, delivery may be through online instruction. Students may not travel to other another school/campus as services must be handled at the student’s assigned school.

**5. Who administers the assessment?**  
 The principal will determine which school-based staff will administer the assessments.

**6. How will tests be scored? How will scores be reported to schools?**  
 Schools will return their answer documents to TE21 via UPS (pre-printed address label) on the final day of testing for the school calendar. Scores will be reported back to schools within two weeks.

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7. **If a parent is nominating for both subjects, do we go ahead and administer the benchmark for both subjects and see in which subject the student qualifies, if at all, or do parents have to pick only one subject?**  
Parents may nominate their child in **one area only**; Students may **not be nominated in two** areas. A student would take the assessment in the ONE area of nomination.
8. **If an 8th grader qualifies for ELA SSA, how will the student access English I?**  
The student will take English I via North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS). This is the only available option for delivery of instruction. Note that middle school students do not receive honors credit via NCVPS. High school courses taken in middle school will not contribute to the student's high school GPA.
9. **If a student transfers schools after being approved for SSA, how will this be communicated to the new school?**  
The sending school should note this in the records for the receiving school. SSA contact at the sending school should also contact the SSA contact at the receiving school to inform them of this student's need. Parents should also be encouraged to share this upon enrolling at the new school.
10. **How will schools access the SSA assessments and answer sheets?**  
SSA Liaisons will receive answer sheets via UPS prior to the opening of the school's Nomination Window. SSA Liaisons will order tests via the WCPSS SSA Google Form. Tests will be sent via courier directly to schools prior to the start of the school's Testing Window.
11. **If a student transfers into WCPSS after the 2015-2016 nomination window for SSA, will students have the opportunity to take the assessment?**  
Students who transfer into WCPSS after the nomination window will have the opportunity to take the assessment in spring of the **next school year**. Only students that are currently **enrolled and attending** WCPSS during the nomination and testing window are eligible for consideration of SSA for the following year. SSA only includes a spring testing window. If a student transfers in later in the year, the principal should make a placement decision based on the available information, transcripts, records, etc.
12. **If students nominated for testing have accommodations, do we provide them for the SSA assessments?**  
Yes. Schools should work with Testing Coordinators to ensure accommodations are provided for students with LEP Plans, IEPs, and/or 504s.
13. **Should the scores on the 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Mathematics assessments be averaged?**  
The scores for the 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Math Summative Assessment **should not be averaged in any way**. Each task is assessing a student's performance on

individual standards. In order for a student to be considered for SSA, the student should be proficient on all tasks provided on the assessment. The student **must have a score of 3 (or higher) for each of the individual tasks**, using the rubric provided in the administrator's manual.

**14. Should only the guided reading scores on the 1<sup>st</sup> Grade ELA assessments be used for SSA criteria?**

From a literacy perspective, the identified focus standards **must be at the proficient level** to be considered for SSA, and the reading level is only one piece of that puzzle. The mClass scoring software should be utilized to compute the overall score to include scores for written comprehension. This ensures the most accurate score to be used for SSA qualifications.

Additionally, we know that K-1 are the foundational years for building literacy skills, and students who are not proficient in those basic (focus) standards, will experience difficulty in the upper elementary grades. We have to recognize the rigor and thinking involved in the CCSS, and we should ensure that students have a foundation to build upon. Kindergarten students looking to skip first grade ELA must meet the criteria for both a fiction and a nonfiction text.

**15. How will elementary schools obtain resources for use with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum?**

Schools providing the course online or face-to-face will provide textbooks on an as needed basis for students. Additional materials can be provided if not available at the school. Contact the middle school content area administrator for more information.

**16. Who should grade the written portion and determine final score of 1<sup>st</sup> grade assessment for a child who is nominated for SSA?**

The assessment will be graded by at least two scorers. If the scorers do not independently score it the same way, a third scorer should review and score the response.

**17. Does a child receive AIG service even if they are being Single Subject Accelerated?**

Yes. A student does not have to be identified in the Academically or Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Program to participate in SSA. Participating in SSA is **not** considered AIG services, therefore students will receive gifted services as outlined in their Differentiated Education Plan (DEP).

**18. Is it possible to get a more detailed report from Case 21 to show scores on specific standards?**

No, Case 21 will not provide us with an item analysis for SSA. Scores will be reported back to schools as a percent correct on the accelerated assessment.

**19. Which teacher is responsible for the gaps in instruction since they have to**

**take the grade level EOG?**

By requesting SSA, parents understand that students will not receive direct instruction on the content they are skipping. While supports may be put in place for identified gaps, this will not include direct instruction and likely will include some type of independent activities.

**20. How is a student's schedule affected when they participate in SSA?**

By participating in SSA, parents are aware that changes in scheduling will be necessary which may result in other off-grade level activities (e.g. specials, lunch, recess). Specials, such as Art, Music, and Physical Education, are all part of the NC Standard Course of Study with Essential Standards in each area. To meet NC General Statutes of a comprehensive education, each student must attend specials even if they are participating in SSA. Schools will address scheduling needs on an individual basis.

**21. What about ADM requirements in K-2?**

Since it is not an all-day placement, it should not impact the class size limits.

**22. Do AIG teachers know they could be asked to provide supplemental instruction?**

We have met with SSA contacts / AIG teachers to discuss this process with them. They know they will be the main point of contact for SSA. In addition, we have communicated that schools have the ability to make the decision about service delivery that best suits the needs of students and the school.

**23. What if a student is pulled out mid-year?**

Students will get grades for the class to which they are assigned until the placement changes.

**24. Who can make the decision to remove the student from the SSA class?**

It should be a collaborative decision between the parent and the school to return the student to their grade-level content. If a student is struggling with the course, an intervention plan should be initiated and documented.

**25. Will they always take the grade level EOG?**

Yes, it is a state mandate that students take the EOG for the grade to which they are assigned.

**26. What are district expectations for taking TE 21/Case 21 benchmarks during the school year.**

Our expectation is that students will take benchmarks for the course they

are currently taking so that those scores can help to guide instruction.