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TO: LEA Test Coordinator

FROM: Chris Cobitz, Chief
Reporting Section

DATE: April 19, 2006

RE: Participation Rate Review

In an effort to assist LEAs in correcting data issues related to course coding and semester coding, we have run analyses of the participation rate for ABCs for Fall testing. The files resulting from these analyses are located on the secure shell in your 2006/95_percent_tested folder. We computed the percent tested for EOC where the denominator is based on enrollment as it appears in the membership files and the numerator (number tested) is based on the fall EOC Scan files. Note: US History and Civics and Economics were not included in these analyses.

This process should assist in identifying miscoded courses, semesters and course length. If the list appears to have too many or the wrong students listed, please begin the review process by checking to make sure that year long courses are labeled as such in SIMS/NCWISE. It has been found that in most cases, this is where the error is occurring. Please review this student data to ensure accuracy and communicate how the semesters are coded to your RAC so we can make adjusts should they be necessary.

It is important to remember that for ABCs this year, the participation rate is based on the enrollment (from the member file) NOT the number of answer sheets as in the past. Courses coded with the state course code for an EOC course will be included in the calculation. The best way to audit this information is using the match procedure in Winscan.

Please work with these analyses so that we can 1) accurately calculate the percent of students tested and 2) your schools can correctly code the course for Spring semester testing so those files come in clean from SIMS/NCWISE. Should you have questions about this, please feel free to contact your RAC, or me at ccobitz@dpi.state.nc.us.

Cc: Regional Accountability Coordinator

Attachments: Appendix A - Three Analyses Run
Appendix B - Description of the Data Files
Appendix C - Default Course Coding Logic

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Appendix A - Three Analyses Run:

Nottested###.csv

Select students in the first day of fall membership file who are enrolled in an EOC course and scheduled to be tested at the end of the first semester, check that the students were tested and have a valid score in the scan file, or was tested with NCCLASS. A list of students not found in the scan file is produced, the students who are in the scan files and marked as absent are not on the list, as they already have been checked when the testing coordinators checked their files in with their RAC.

testednotinmemb.###.csv

Select students with a valid score in the EOC scan file, or NCCLASS. Check, in the membership file, that they were enrolled in the course and scheduled to be tested at the end of the first semester. A list of students tested, but not enrolled in the course is produced.

pcttested.###.csv

Compute the percent of students tested as the quotient of the number of students in EOC courses. The list of schools in the LEA with their percent tested is produced.

Appendix B - Description of the Data Files:

Nottested###.csv

List of students not tested: excel (.csv) file: nottested###.csv
(### = LEA number)

Columns:

- LEA Code
- School Code
- School Name
- Student ID
- Last Name
- First Name
- Course the student was enrolled in, but no record of EOC testing
- State course code
- Course Title
- Semester
- Test Cycle (F = Fall)

testednotinmemb.###.csv

List of tested students who were not enrolled in the EOC in the membership file:
excel(.csv) file: testednotinmemb.###.csv (### = LEA number)

To make the process easier, for each student, where a test score was found, but no record of the specific course was found in the membership file, we printed out all the records in the membership file for this student.

Columns

- LEA Code
- School Code
- School Name
- Student ID
- Last Name
- First Name
- Course the student was tested in, but not enrolled to be tested in fall semester
- EC Test Score
- State Course Code
- Semester
- Test Cycle (F = Fall)

pcttested.###.csv

The list of schools and their percent tested are displayed in an excel file
(pcttested.###.csv ### = LEA number)

Columns

- LEA Code
- School Code
- School Name
- Numerator = Number tested
- Denominator = Number enrolled
- Percent (ignore the * in front of the number)

Appendix C - Default Course Coding Logic

Calculation of course cycle for ACCMEM

First, all ACCMEM records for the given school, year and collection code are analyzed to determine the unique list of semester codes, or semester pattern, used by the school.

- Semester codes of 0 and null are excluded from the pattern.
- For SIMS, only semester codes from records with 'S' as 7th character of state course are included in the pattern.

Then, for each ACCMEM record, the course cycle is derived depending on the logic below based on the system type. The course cycle is set to null if it is not caught by the logic.

SIMS:

If character position 7 of state course code is Y, then course cycle is Y

If character position 7 of state course code is S, then:

Semester Pattern	Semester Code	Course Cycle
1	1	Y
1,2	1	F
	2	S
1,2,3	1	F
	3	S
1,2,3,4	2	F
	4	S

LEA 600:

Semester Pattern	Semester Code	Course Cycle
1	1	Y
1,2	1	F
	2	S

NCWise including 920:

If the semester code is 0, then course cycle is Y

Semester Pattern	Semester Code	Course Cycle
1	1	Y
1,2	1	F
	2	S
1,3	1	F
	3	S
2,4	2	F
	4	S

3,4	3	F
	4	S
1,2,3	1	F
	3	S
1,2,4	1	F
	4	S
2,3,4	2	F
	4	S
1,2,3,4	2	F
	4	S