



State of Vermont
Vermont Department of Education
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

TO: Superintendents and Principals
FROM: Armando Vilaseca, Commissioner of Education
DATE: September 9, 2011
RE: Extended NECAP Test Window for School Affected by Hurricane Irene

Recognizing that a number of Vermont Schools are starting the new academic year under the worst of circumstances, we are working out arrangements with our assessment contractor, Measured Progress, to extend the NECAP testing window to **November 1, 2011** for those schools that have experienced significant delays in opening schools in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene. Administrators from schools interested in using the extended testing window must contact our Director of Educational Assessment, Michael Hock, (802-828-3115/ Michael.Hock@state.vt.us) by no later than September 16, 2011 so that Measured Progress and the Department has sufficient time to prepare for the extension.. The assessment window for all other schools will continue to be October 3, 2011 to October 25, 2011, with pick up on October 26, as originally scheduled.

Extending the testing window could possibly have budget implications and could also delay release of results for all schools in the four NECAP states. However, we believe we can provide this extension without those repercussions as long as we minimize the number of schools involved. Therefore, we are asking that only the schools who had delayed openings or other extraordinary circumstances use the option. Once we have the list of schools approved for an extension we will be providing additional details.

We would also like to remind schools that it has always been possible to exempt individual students from NECAP testing for reasons of health, personal crisis or family emergency. This option should be used judiciously and only with individuals. Exemptions are not appropriate for groups of students. However, even in schools that were not impacted significantly by the hurricane, this option may be appropriate for some students who lost their homes or experienced other traumatic circumstances due to the storm.

If you have questions about these options or any other issues related to fall 2011 NECAP testing, please contact Michael Hock by phone or e-mail, as noted above. We wish you a productive and successful school year.