



# CTE Technical Assessment Frequently Asked Questions

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**1. Is NOCTI/NIMS post-testing required for the 2020-21 school year?**

Yes, post-testing is required for the 2020-21 school year. However, in accordance with Act 136 of 2020, a school may request a waiver from the Secretary of Education regarding the NOCTI/NIMS.

**2. How do I request a waiver for my school?**

The Pennsylvania Department of Education is developing a waiver application that will be completed as a survey. The survey will be sent to the school administrators.

**3. Can a school request a test waiver for only certain programs?**

Yes, schools may request either a schoolwide or specific program test waiver.

**4. What do we do if evaluators will not come to the school for the performance test?**

The test cannot be administered.

**5. Can we use only the computer portion of the test?**

The NOCTI/NIMS test has one score and one set of cut scores. Both parts are required for state and federal reporting and for students to qualify for the PA Skills Certificate, Certificate of Competency and/or SOAR credit. However, schools may use only the computer portion of the test for local purposes.

**6. Will a school be penalized if we do not use both test components?**

No. However, students must take the complete test to be eligible for PA Skills Certificate, Certificate of Competency or SOAR credit.

**7. Will PDE pay for the computer portion of the test if we decide to use only the computer portion?**

Yes, PDE will pay for the computer portion of the test if the school is granted a waiver by the Secretary of Education.

**8. Is spring pre-testing optional like the fall session?**

Yes, spring pre-testing is available through the Technical Assistance Program. Most schools use the pre-test, but it is not required.

**9. Is NOCTI/NIMS providing COVID-related guidance?**

Yes, NOCTI/NIMS has distributed a Resource Sheet with video option suggestions and other COVID-related guidance. Please speak with the school's test site coordinator.

**10. Can students be considered completers if they do not take the aligned NOCTI/NIMS test?**

No, a student must complete any aligned competency test to be considered a completer; this definition has not changed and is not impacted by a waiver.

**11. What should a school do if students are absent during the scheduled test date?**

The test site coordinator should schedule a make-up day for those students.