



MEMORANDUM TO NaCCA ON THE CONDUCT OF THE 2022 NATIONAL STANDARDISED TEST

INTRODUCTION

The 2022 edition of the National Standardised Test (NST) for Basic 4 learners took place on Friday December 16, 2022. This was preceded by a two-week Basic 2 NST exercise. On Sunday, December 18, 2022, Eduwatch held a rapid stakeholder review of the 2022 NST to discuss the successes and challenges as part of efforts to improve. The meeting also discussed the outcomes of NST 2021.

The following outcomes of the discussion are hereby presented to the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NaCCA) and the Ministry of Education (MoE) for consideration and action:

Positives

1. Basic 2 NST went on smoothly, due to the phased, computerized approach.
2. Basic 4 NST went on smoothly in many schools, despite the delayed commencement.

Challenges

1. One (1) year after the 2021 NST was conducted, school heads have still not received any analysis of the results to inform teaching and learning strategy.
2. The receipt of Test logistics by District Education Offices (DEOs) in the late afternoon of Thursday 15th December 2022, a day before the Basic 4 NST.
3. Delayed dispatch of Test logistics from DEOs to schools due to time spent in sorting answer sheets/scannable papers for schools. Unlike question papers which were packed according to schools, scannable answer papers required sorting to identify the matching schools for each index number since they were not packed according to schools.
4. Delayed arrival of Test logistics in schools, with some as late as 3:00 PM in the Ga West district.



5. The delayed commencement of papers in some schools reduced the Test duration by about 15 minutes.
6. Exclusion of schools who received their Test logistics late in the afternoon. Such schools wrote only English and could not participate in the second paper (Mathematics), since it was dark. Others did not write any paper at all. E.g., Epiphany Anglican Basic, Ga West district.
7. Mix up between index numbers and names on scannable forms in some schools. Some scannable forms were either without names or had duplicate index numbers.
8. No reference manuals for Test Administrators (TAs) as promised during training. This made it difficult to confront basic emerging challenges.
9. Delayed receipt of listening comprehension passages to be read by TAs in some districts in Ashanti and Volta Region. Some monitors and TAs managed to get passages through WhatsApp after an hour to read to learners.
10. No security bags for logistics as indicated during TAs' training.
11. Sample Test questions arrived in schools together with the actual text questions/logistics, defeating the essence.
12. Some TAs spent an hour teaching learners how to shade answers on the scannable sheet. This delayed the start of the Test in some schools.
13. Limited presence of NaCCA officials in districts affected the quality of response, including communication on emerging issues prior to and during the 2022 NST.
14. Less than 8% of private schools participated in the 2022 NST due to the following reasons:
 - i. Late announcement of NST date for Basic 4. The three-day notice for a Test planned for a year was woefully inadequate, affecting participation.
 - ii. Poor communication on deadlines for registering. Whereas the private school portal closed on 7th December 2022, there was no communication on deadline for registration from NaCCA. Private schools were paying even two days to the Test, yet could not participate.



- iii. Reliance on EMIS platform for registering private schools was restrictive since less than 50% of private schools are currently captured on the EMIS pilot system. Besides, there was poor communication on the registration process on the EMIS platform.

General observation

NaCCA has limited capacity in deploying logistics to conduct a same day nationwide examination in both private and public schools. This is evidenced in the successful conduct of the phased Basic 2 NST 2022 compared to the logistical and coordination challenges in administering the Basic 4 NST.

Recommendations

1. The participation of all Ghanaian basic school learners in the NST, whether public or private is critical to improving teaching, learning, and learning outcomes, in pursuit of the objectives of the Standards Based Curriculum and SDG 4 targets.
2. NaCCA should provide the school level analysis of the 2021 NST results to inform teaching and learning strategy in schools, and ensure the 2022 results and analysis are released to District Education Offices and schools by June 2023.
3. For the 2022 NST for Basic 4, NaCCA should organise a mop up for all public schools that could not write, and private schools that paid to write but couldn't.
4. NaCCA should organise a national stakeholders review of the 2022 NST to guide national, district and school level actions in subsequent NSTs.
5. For subsequent NSTs, NaCCA, under the guidance of the MoE should:
 - a. Ensure civil society participation in the planning, implementation, and review of the Test.
 - b. Organize the Test one (1) week before vacation.
 - c. Adopt a phased approach similar to the NST for Basic 2.
 - d. Provide manuals during training of Test Administrators.
 - e. Communicate Test dates one (1) month ahead to ensure effective preparation.



- f. Streamline registration and payment process for private schools and use a direct bank payments system instead of the banker's draft which was difficult to submit, especially in rural districts.
- g. Set deadlines for registration two (2) weeks prior to the Test.
- h. Use NaSIA data on private schools to register.
- i. Create NST coordinating desks in every district for the period prior and during the Test.
- j. Ensure sample Test questions reach schools one (1) week prior to the Test.
- k. Dispatch logistics to districts three (3) days prior to the Test. If possible, use existing WAEC distribution system.
- l. Sort both question papers and scannable answer sheets according to schools, two (2) days ahead of the Test.
- m. Ensure all logistics are dispatched to schools a day prior.
- n. Secure logistics in security bags.
- o. Create spaces for civil society monitoring at district and national level.
- p. Ensure teachers prepare their learners adequately on how to shade answers ahead of the test day.

Respectfully submitted to:

The Director-General, NaCCA.

Cc:

The Honourable Minister of Education.

The Coordinator, NST 2022.