

# The Grades 3–8 New York State Assessments: What Parents Need to Know

The Grades 3–8 English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Science Tests are administered in the spring to students across New York State. These annual tests for students in Grades 3–8 are required by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015. Public and charter school students enrolled in Grades 3–8 are expected to take the ELA, mathematics, and science tests administered for their grade level. The tests are designed to measure how well students are mastering the learning standards that guide classroom instruction and are a valuable tool used to help ensure students have the support needed to succeed. The tests can also help identify any learning needs a student may have. The annual tests are one measure used to assess student learning and is one tool of many used by educators to ensure students are getting the services and supports they need to prepare for career, college, and civic readiness.

## Student Testing

- The Grades 3–8 English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Science Tests are untimed.
- This means that students who are working productively will have as much time as they need to complete each test session within the confines of the regular school day. A supervised lunch break should be arranged for students during any of the test sessions, if necessary.
- Schools and districts have discretion to allow students to read silently or quietly exit the room when they have completed their test while others continue to work.

## Test Questions Written and Reviewed by New York State Teachers

- Hundreds of New York State educators were involved in creating, reviewing, and selecting questions for the tests to ensure each question is fair and accessible for all students.

## Providing Results for Teachers and Improved Resources for Parents

- The New York State Education Department (NYSED) plans to have instructional reports returned to teachers by the end of the school year.
- The Score Reports for parents are anticipated to be available in September and will feature information about what students should know and be able to do at each grade level. The report will show how your child scored in specific skill and concept areas.
- Released test questions are posted on the Department's website (https://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/past-grades-3-8-tests) for review.
- Results can be used to see how schools, districts, and the State overall are progressing with the learning standards. However, State law and Regulations of the Education Commissioner prohibit districts from making promotions or placement decisions for students based solely or primarily on the performance on these tests.

## Computer-Based Testing (CBT)

- Students in Grades 3–8 take the ELA, mathematics, and science tests via CBT.
- The Question Sampler (https://ny.nextera.questarai.com/tds/#practice) is available publicly online and offers an opportunity for students, parents, and educators to become familiar with CBT.
- Paper-based testing is available as an accommodation for students who, according to their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or Section 504 Plans, must test on paper and for students who require an alternate language edition or oral translation of the mathematics or science test. In addition, paper-based testing will remain available to religious and independent schools who do not make use of technology in the classroom because of religious beliefs.

Questions about testing programs, policies, and procedures may be sent to emscassessinfo@nysed.gov.

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