

THE STATE ASSESSMENTS

What Families Need to Know



Agenda

- ❑ **Annual Grades 3-8 English Language Arts & Mathematics Tests**
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 - Test Changes
 - Test Facts
 - The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
 - Test Results
- ❑ **Q+A**
- ❑ **Additional Resources**

Test Content

The annual Grades 3-8 English Language Arts and Mathematics Tests:

- ❑ Focus on the New York State learning standards, which guide classroom instruction in ELA and math;
- ❑ Measure important real-world skills such as problem solving, critical thinking, and writing; and
- ❑ Require students to explain their answers and describe and defend their reasoning.

Test Changes

- ❑ Over the past few years, the State Education Department has made several changes to the annual Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests in response to concerns from parents and educators.
- ❑ In 2018 and 2019, the Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests were reduced from three test sessions per subject to only two sessions per subject. That change remains in effect this year.

Test Changes – Earlier Release Dates

- ❑ **Test questions and instructional reports will be released on or around June 1.**
- ❑ The June release date of instructional reports gives teachers time to use the information before the end of the school year.
- ❑ The State Education Department will release **75% of test questions**, as in prior years.

Test Facts

- ❑ The 2020 tests will continue to be untimed so students who need additional time to work can have it, within the confines of the regular school day.
- ❑ Test items were created by New York State teachers.
- ❑ Scores are not used to evaluate teachers.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

- ❑ ESSA requires that 95% of students in each tested subgroup take the appropriate State tests.
- ❑ The State calculation has changed so that students who refuse to take the assessments count against the school.
- ❑ The NYS Accountability System classifies schools into 1 of 4 categories: Recognition Schools (highest rating), Schools in Good Standing, Targeted Support and Improvement Schools (TSI), and Comprehensive Support and Improvement Schools (CSI).
- ❑ If a school does not show progress toward the 95% participation rate, it could be deemed TSI or CSI, rather than a School in Good Standing.
- ❑ Schools may not be recognized as Recognition Schools or Blue Ribbon Schools if they fail to meet the 95% participation rate requirements.

Test Results

Your child's test results...

- serve as an 'academic checkup' to make sure your child is on track for the next grade level;
- measure progress over time so you can see your child's year-to-year performance; and
- provide a deeper level of information by pinpointing what skills your child has mastered and what skills your child is still developing.

This information is included in the redesigned **Score Reports** for parents. The updated reports are **easier to understand** and provide **more information about what students should know** and be able to do at each grade level.

Questions + Answers

Learn more about the assessments

Visit [NYSED.gov](https://www.nysed.gov) and [EngageNY.org](https://www.engageNY.org)

Talk to your child's teacher