



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, math, 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 2025 Grades 3–8 English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Science Tests will be 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

- As in previous years, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) plans to have instructional reports returned to teachers by the end of the school year and to release at least 75% of the test questions.
- The 2025 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.
- 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)

- New York State builds on its [statewide transition to CBT](#) for the Grades 3–8 ELA, Math and Science Tests in 2025. In Spring 2025, students in Grades 4, 5, 6, and 8 will take the ELA, math, and science tests via CBT. Grades 3 & 7 may also participate in CBT, but paper-based testing will still be available for schools that choose to test these students on paper. The transition will continue in 2026, with Grades 3 & 7 being added so that all Grades 3–8 tests are administered by computer in 2026.
- The [Question Sampler \(https://ny.nextera.questarai.com/tds/#practice\)](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.
- There are many opportunities that come with full implementation of CBT and NYSED is exploring ways to harness these benefits once all students are participating in computer-based testing.

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