




Deputy Commissioner
Office of Curriculum, Assessment and Educational Technology

July 2014

To: BOCES District Superintendents
Superintendents of Public Schools
Principals of Public and Nonpublic Schools
Charter School Leaders

From: Ken Wagner 

Subject: Early Release of Instructional Reports for the 2014 Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics Testing Program

In response to feedback and requests from teachers, principals, and superintendents, the Department has authorized the early release of instructional reports for the 2014 Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Testing Program. These reports can be accessed via your Regional Information Center (RIC) and/or Level 1 data center.

These secure reports will allow authorized school personnel to view, for each question that contributed to a student's score, whether the student answered the question correctly and the Common Core learning standard measured by the question. The reports will allow for raw score performance comparisons at the student, classroom, school, district, and regional levels.¹

Our assessments are tools that can help improve instruction through the identification of student strengths and areas in need of additional support. For example, if a class struggled with questions that measure addition and subtraction of fractions with unlike denominators, the teacher can adjust instruction next year to strengthen students' understanding of this topic. See <https://www.engageny.org/3-8> for detailed information about the Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics Testing Program, including subject- and grade-level [test guides](#), the [criteria used to select passages and design questions](#), detailed [performance level descriptions](#), and [suggested data analyses](#).

These instructional reports have been available in prior years but, through this early release, superintendents, principals, and teachers will have more time to use the results when planning for next school year.

¹ For a summary of the instructional reports made available by the RICs, see <http://www.boces.org/Portals/0/Web%20Docs/RIC%20Reports/NYSRICsCognos.pdf>. The New York City Department of Education and the Yonkers school district serve as their own Level 1 data center and will have different reporting solutions and time lines.

In early August, the Department will release approximately 50% of the 2014 test questions (an increase from 25% for the 2013 tests).² As was the case last year, released test questions will include detailed annotations that explain correct and incorrect responses. Released test questions, coupled with the instructional reports described above, are an important component of a comprehensive approach to instructional planning and professional development.

Please note that these reports will be based on raw scores only. They will not include scale scores or performance levels until the statewide results are released later this summer. Please also note that 2014 raw scores are not comparable to prior-year raw scores. Since conversion charts are not continuous from year to year, prior-year conversion charts will not produce valid scale score or performance level results for 2014 raw scores.

If you have questions about these instructional reports, please contact the Office of Information and Reporting Services at dataquest@mail.nysed.gov or your RIC or Big 5 city school district data center at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/sirs/RICBIG5.pdf>. Report availability will be determined by your RIC / Level 1. If you have questions about the Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics Testing Program, please contact the Office of State Assessment at emscassessinfo@mail.nysed.gov.

Thank you for your continued support with this important and challenging work.

² The Department requested funding that would have allowed us over time to release more than 90% of the scored test questions, but that funding was not included in the enacted state budget.