

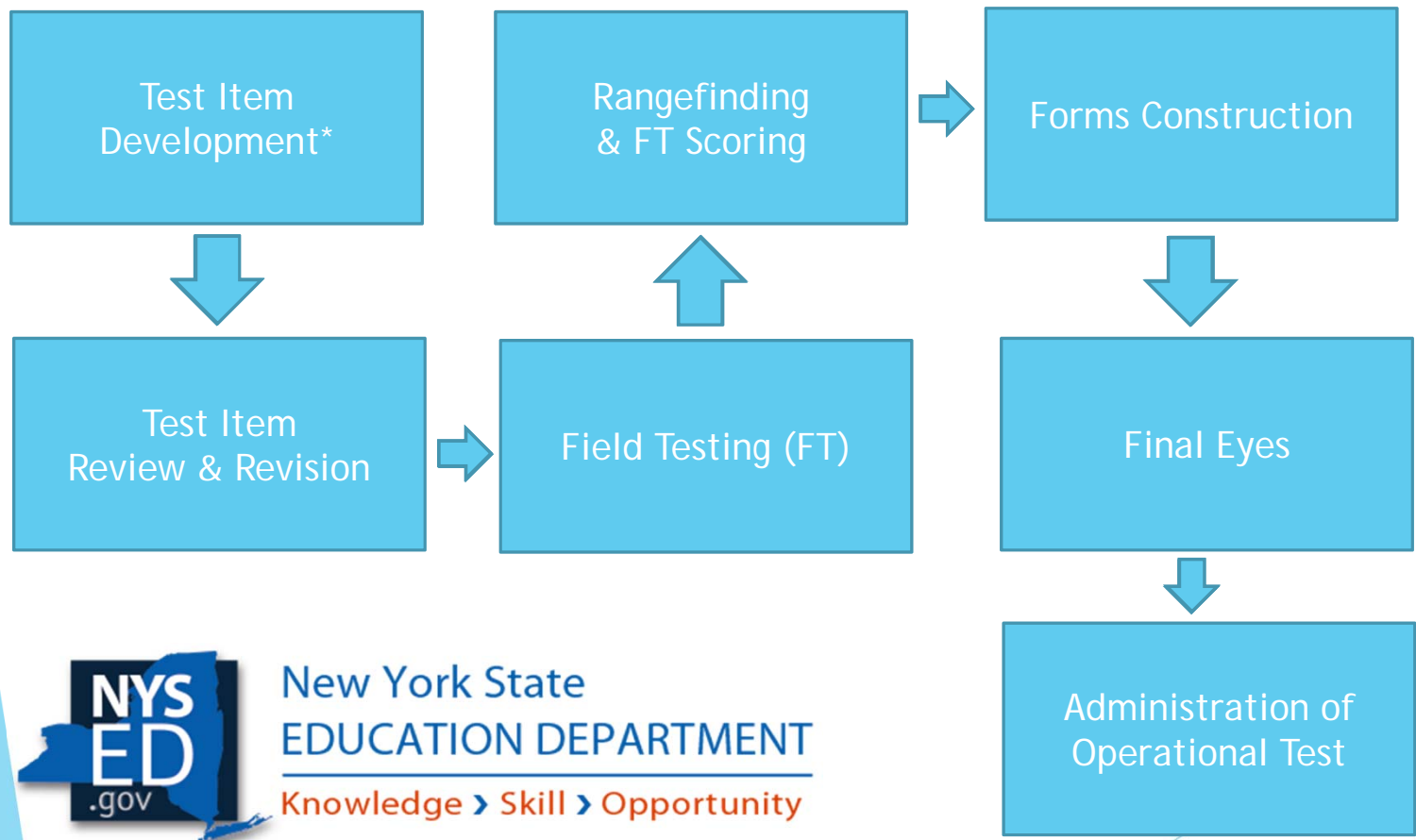


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# The Life Cycle of Test Items

March 28, 2018

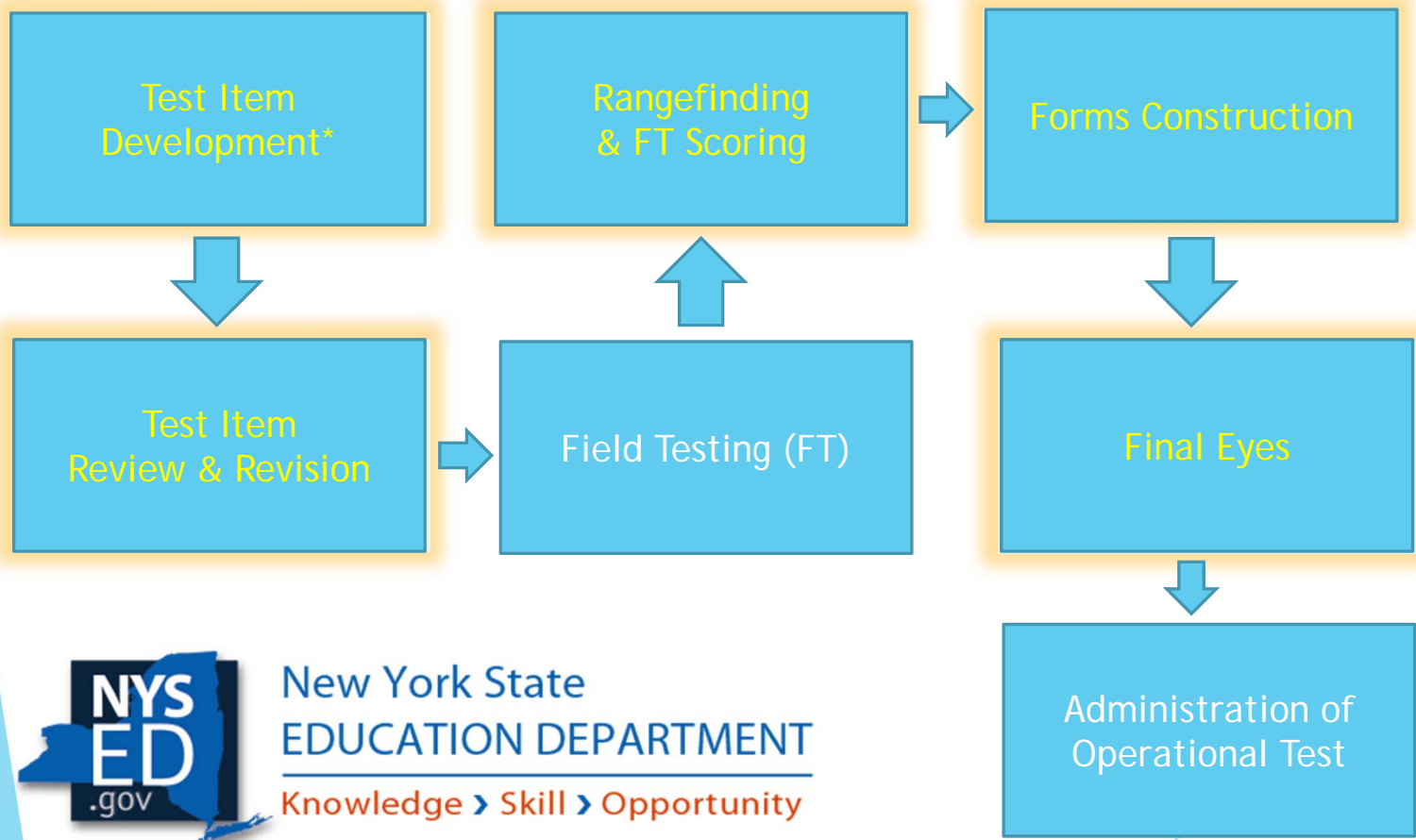
# Milestone Events in Test Item Development



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\*For the English Language Arts tests, item development is preceded by passage selection.

# Milestone Events in Test Item Development



These steps involve New York State Educators

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# Test Item Development

- ▶ Target of measurement must be clearly defined
  - ▶ Blueprints and other documentation developed prior to the first test
- ▶ (ELA only) Selection of passage based on established criteria
- ▶ NYS educators that have been trained write test items aligned to the learning standard assignment and quality/fairness criteria



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# Test Item Review & Revision

- ▶ Items are reviewed by multiple NYS educators - this happens several times
  - ▶ Checking for:
    - ▶ Validity: does the test item measure what is intended?
    - ▶ Content: are the item and its correct answer factually accurate?
    - ▶ Quality: does the item have one and only one correct answer?
    - ▶ Fairness: is the item accessible and the language clear for all students?



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# Field Testing

- ▶ Following multiple rounds of review by NYS educators and NYSED staff, items are field tested with a representative groups of NYS students
  - ▶ Another term for field testing is “question try-out.”
- ▶ Field testing helps ensure that test items are free from flaws and/or bias and are appropriate for inclusion on the test
- ▶ School and student participation in field testing is essential in ensuring the quality and fairness of the test items
- ▶ Statistical analysis of field test results identifies any issues with the items, such as being too difficult



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# Rangefinding & Field Test Scoring

- ▶ Rangefinding is the process in which NYS educators review field-tested open-ended test items and determine what level of knowledge and skills are necessary to be evident in the response for each score point
  - ▶ Based on the scoring rubrics
- ▶ These determinations are used to score the remainder of the field tested items and develop scoring materials for the operational test
- ▶ Reviewing student responses is also another opportunity to ensure the validity of each test item
  - ▶ i.e., are students responding in a manner consistent with what is being assessed?



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# Forms Construction



- ▶ Field test results are used to establish the pool of items that have acceptable statistical properties
- ▶ NYS educators select and approve the items that will appear on the operational test from this pool



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# Final Eyes

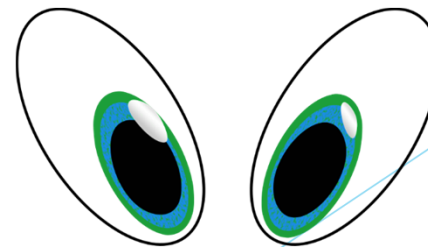
- ▶ NYS educators review final operational test that was selected by other educators at forms construction
- ▶ The educators take the test and record answers to all test items
- ▶ Focus is on ensuring that all of the test items that were selected for inclusion on the test do not have any critical issues that would adversely affect students' test taking experience (e.g., more than one correct answer)



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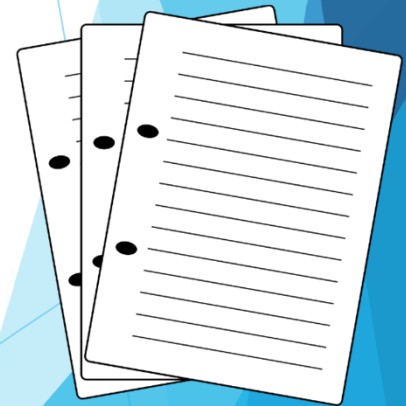
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# Final Notes

- ▶ The processes employed by NYSED are based in assessment research, consistent with all state and national testing programs, and meet or exceed industry standards for testing.
- ▶ Again, there are many more steps involved, including multiple reviews
  - ▶ All of them focus on ensuring reliability, validity and fairness for students
  - ▶ Many of them involve NYS educators
- ▶ NYS educators are the driver of decisions about test questions
  - ▶ They are involved in many steps of the process and NYSED continues to expand the roles that NYS educators play in test development



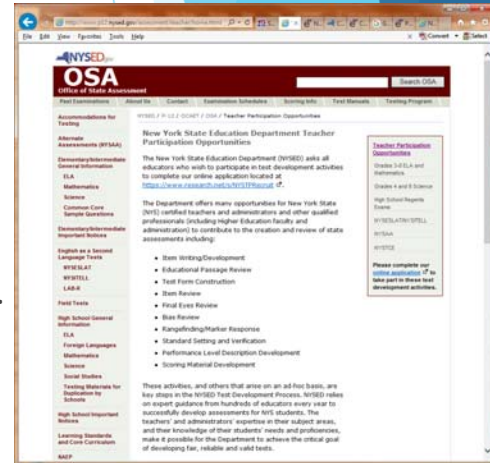
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# Final Notes

- ▶ How can you learn more about getting involved?
  - ▶ Talk to a colleague, fellow educator, or administrator who has participated in one or more of these events or stages
  - ▶ Contact NYSED and let us know you are interested!
- ▶ Visit the Office of State Assessment online:
  - ▶ <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/teacher/home.html>
  - ▶ Complete an online application via the link provided on the webpage above.
  - ▶ Learn more about the various ways and opportunities you can participate!
  - ▶ Help us create the new tests for the Next Generation Learning Standards!



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# Thank You!

And now, our next presentation...