



The 2023 Grades 3-8 New York State Assessments: What Parents Need to Know

The Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Tests are administered in the spring to students across New York State. These annual ELA and mathematics 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 and mathematics 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.

Untimed Tests

- The 2023 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests will be untimed.
- This means that as long as students are working productively, they 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

- Teachers from across the State serve on committees to write, evaluate, and select questions for the tests.
- Hundreds of New York State educators certified in the grade/content were involved in creating and reviewing questions for 2023 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests and selecting the questions for the test forms.

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 again.
- The 2023 Score Reports for parents will feature information about what students should know and be able to do at each grade level.
- 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

- Some schools chose to administer the 2023 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests on computers rather than on paper. The computer-based tests (CBT) will have the same questions as the paper versions.
- 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.
- Eventually, all schools will use [CBT for annual State tests](#). 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.