

# **New York State Testing Program**

## **2023 Grade 6 Mathematics Constructed- Response Writing (Combined) Field Tests**

**Teacher's Directions for  
Paper-Based Field Testing  
May 22–June 2, 2023**

**Grade 6  
2023**



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**It is important to read all of Steps One–Five and the pertinent grade-level information in Step Six prior to administering the field test.**

**Field test booklets must be kept secure. You are not to discuss the field test, show it to anyone, or photocopy the materials, as the security of the field test could be breached. However, school personnel may make photocopies of this *Teacher’s Directions* if additional copies are needed.**

# Introduction

The New York State Department of Education (NYSED) has a partnership with Questar Assessment Inc. (Questar) for the development of the 2023 Grades 3–8 Mathematics Field Tests. Teachers from across the State work with NYSED in a variety of activities to ensure the validity and reliability of the New York State Testing Program (NYSTP).

The 2023 Grade 6 Mathematics Field Test can be administered to groups or classes of students in a single class period. The field test does not need to be administered on the same day to every student in the field-tested grade. Schools can elect to administer the field test on as many days as they choose, within the field test window.

For Grade 6, the field tests consist of multiple-choice, 1-, 2-, and 3-credit constructed-response questions.

Each multiple-choice question is followed by four choices, one of which is the correct answer. Students record their responses in their field test booklets. The constructed-response questions require students to write (rather than select) appropriate responses. Students write their answers to these questions directly in their field test booklets.

By following the guidelines in this document, you help ensure that the field test is valid, reliable, and equitable for all students. A series of instructions helps you organize the materials and the field testing schedule.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Paper-Based Field Test Dates	May 22–June 2, 2023
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**No one, under any circumstances, including the student, may alter the student's responses on the field test once the student has handed in their field test materials. Teachers and administrators who engage in inappropriate conduct with respect to administering and scoring State assessments may be subject to disciplinary actions in accordance with Sections 3020 and 3020-a of Education Law or to action against their certification pursuant to Part 83 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.**

## STEP ONE

# Check Your Paper-Based Field Test Materials

To administer these field tests, you will need the materials listed below. If any materials are missing, notify your school principal.

### For the teacher

- *Teacher's Directions for Paper-Based Field Testing*
- Classroom roster
- Field test booklet
- Student identification labels for field test booklets (received from Questar)
- "Do Not Disturb" sign (not provided)
- Extra No. 2 pencils with erasers (not provided)

### For each student

- Field test booklet
- No. 2 pencil with eraser (not provided)
- Ruler (not provided)
- Protractor (not provided)
- Mathematics reference sheet (provided in the field test booklets)
- Scientific or four-function calculator with a square root key for Grade 6 (not provided)  
**NOTE:** Graphing calculators are **not** permitted

### Security

The 2023 Grade 6 Mathematics Paper-Based Field Test includes secure materials. School personnel responsible for testing must ensure that all field test materials are secured at all times. The field test booklets may **not** be photocopied or duplicated. No section of any field test may be discussed with the students before it has been administered to all students. You may, however, describe the format of the field tests and the field testing schedule to the students.

- On the day of the field test administration, you should receive the field test booklets being administered that day.
- Contact your principal or the principal's designee if you do not have a sufficient number of field test booklets.
- When not in use, the field test booklets must be kept in a safe or vault in the school building or at an approved alternate storage site to prevent unauthorized access. Storing the field test booklets in this manner ensures that the security of the field test is not breached.
- See your principal or school administrator for instructions regarding the processing of all used and unused field test materials.
- At no time may the contents of the field test booklets be reviewed, discussed, or shared (this includes through any electronic means).

## Unauthorized Materials

Students should be under close supervision at all times during the administration of the field tests and may not use any unauthorized notes, printed materials, scratch paper, tools, or electronic devices that might give them an unfair advantage on the field tests. When students enter the testing room, proctors must ensure that students do not bring any unauthorized materials such as those listed above.

**All students are prohibited from bringing cell phones and certain other personal electronic devices into a classroom or other location where a State field test is being administered. Test proctors and school officials shall retain the right to collect and hold any prohibited personal electronic devices prior to the start of the field test administration.**

Any student observed with any prohibited device while taking a State field test must be directed to turn it over to the proctor or monitor immediately. To allow for all possible outcomes of procedural due process, the student should be allowed to complete the field test. The incident must be reported promptly to the school principal.

**Note:** Some students with disabilities may use certain recording/playback devices **only** if this accommodation is specifically required as a provision of the student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Accommodation Plan (504 Plan). In addition, a student may be allowed to retain an otherwise prohibited device in their possession if there is documentation on file at the school from a medical practitioner that the student requires such a device during testing. Without this documentation, the general policy on communications devices as provided above is in effect, and the school may not allow the student to retain any such equipment while testing.

## Aid to Students

No one, under any circumstances, may interpret or explain field test questions to students, nor may anyone review or comment to the student about the correctness or sufficiency of the student’s response while the field test is in progress. In response to inquiries by students concerning the meaning or interpretation of field test questions, proctors should advise students to use their own best judgment. Proctors may give students assistance only in the mechanics of taking the field test, such as understanding that their multiple-choice and constructed responses must be recorded in the field test booklet.

## Temporary Absence from Testing Room

No student may be permitted to leave and then return to the testing room during the field test unless the student is accompanied by a proctor for the duration of their absence from the testing room.

## Emergency Evacuation of a School Building

Evacuation of a school building during a field test may be required because of an emergency such as a fire alarm or bomb threat. In any situation in which the safety of the students is endangered, the principal has full authority to interrupt the field test immediately. If it is possible, the students should be kept under supervision during the emergency. Then, when work can be resumed safely, allow the students the necessary time to complete the field test.

## **Student Cheating**

Do not permit students to obtain information from or give information to other students in any way during the field test. If you suspect that such an attempt has occurred, warn the students that any further attempts will result in the termination of their field test. If necessary, move the students to another location. If these steps fail to end attempts to obtain or give information, notify the principal immediately and terminate the students' field tests. At the conclusion of the field test session, all suspected cheating must be reported to the principal.

## **Proctoring**

Proctors must circulate periodically around the room during the administration of the field test to ensure that students are recording their responses to field test questions in the proper manner and in the proper place. While circulating around the room, proctors should make sure that students are recording their responses to the multiple-choice and constructed-response questions in their field test booklets. Proctors should also point out to students if they have left one or more answers blank. However, proctors may not comment to any student on the correctness or sufficiency of any answer. Proctors should not use their own personal communication devices during the field test, unless an emergency situation arises.



**STEP TWO**

# Plan Your Paper-Based Field Testing Schedule

- The paper-based field test must be administered from May 22–June 2, 2023.
- Schedule field testing to allow sufficient time for instructions and preparations. Plan to read instructions to students at a moderate, steady pace. Students should be allowed approximately 40 minutes to take the field test.
- **Read the *Teacher’s Directions for Paper-Based Field Testing* in its entirety prior to administering the field test.**
- Review Step Six, “Administer the 2023 Mathematics Paper-Based Field Test,” before administering the field test.
- Before the field test is administered, each student must have a field test booklet with a preprinted student identification label. If a field test booklet is missing a preprinted student identification label for a student, allow sufficient time on the day of the field test administration to fill in the demographic section of the field test booklet.
- Avoid testing just after students have had strenuous physical activity.

## Paper-Based Field Test Format and Schedule

The 2023 Grade 6 Mathematics Paper-Based Field Test will take approximately 40 minutes of testing time. The field tests consist of multiple-choice questions and constructed-response questions. Preceding each constructed-response question is a statement that indicates the number of credits a correct response receives. For example, for a 2-credit constructed-response question it will state, “This question is worth 2 credits.” While students are not scored on the field tests, this models what students see on the Operational Tests. Students will answer the multiple-choice questions by darkening circles in their field test booklets. Students will write their answers to the constructed-response questions directly in their field test booklets. The field tests can be administered to groups or classes of students in a single class period.

Each student field testing in Grade 6 mathematics will have a mathematics reference sheet for their exclusive use during the field test. The mathematics reference sheets are included in the field test booklets. Students will be instructed to remove the mathematics reference sheets from the field test booklets prior to the start of the field test. All mathematics reference sheets must be collected after the field test and returned to the school administrator with the field test booklets.

Students who finish the field test before other students should check their work. Once the student is finished, field test materials may be collected by the proctor. After a student’s field test materials are collected, that student may be permitted to read silently. This privilege is granted at the discretion of each school. No talking and no other schoolwork is permitted. Once all students complete the field test, you may end the session.

## Testing Accommodations for Students with IEPs and 504 Plans

In general, students with disabilities must be provided with the testing accommodations specified in their IEPs or 504 Plans when taking these tests. However, testing accommodations that change the constructs, or what a test is measuring, are not permitted on elementary- and intermediate-level State tests. In administering the paper-based 2023 Grade 6 Mathematics Field Test to students with disabilities, schools

should follow the guidelines on testing accommodations provided in the *School Administrator's Manual for Paper-Based Field Testing* (<http://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/grades-3-8-field-testing>).

## Test Read

The field test may be read to students whose IEPs or 504 Plans include this accommodation. More detailed information about this accommodation can be found in the Office of Special Education's *Testing Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Guidance Document* (<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/documents/testing-accommodations-guide-revised-sept-2019.pdf>).

## Use of Scribes

The use of scribes is an allowable accommodation for the 2023 Grades 3-5 Mathematics Field Tests. More detailed information about the procedures to follow for the use of scribes may be found in the *School Administrator's Manual* (<http://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/grades-3-8-field-testing>).

## Use of Mathematics Spatial Boards with Large Type or Braille Editions

Students whose IEPs or 504 Plans specify the use of mathematics spatial boards are permitted to use these devices with the large type and braille editions of the 2023 Grade 6 Mathematics Field Test.

## Use of Calculators and Other Devices

Students whose IEPs or 504 Plans specify the use of counting blocks, counters, or an abacus are permitted to use such devices for all booklets associated with the 2023 Grade 6 Mathematics Field Test.

- For Grade 6, the use of a four-function calculator with a square root key or a scientific calculator is required. **Graphing calculators are not permitted.**

When students enter the testing room, clear, reset, or disable the memory of any calculator with programming capability. If the memory of a student's calculator is password-protected and cannot be cleared, the calculator must not be used. Students may not use calculators that are capable of symbol manipulation or that can communicate with other calculators through infrared sensors, nor may students use operating manuals, instruction or formula cards, or other information concerning the operation of calculators during the field tests.

## More Information on Testing Accommodations for Students with IEPs and 504 Plans

More detailed information on testing accommodations for students with disabilities can be found in the Office of Special Education's *Testing Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Guidance Document* (<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/documents/testing-accommodations-guide-revised-sept-2019.pdf>).

## Testing Accommodations for English Language Learners

Information on accommodations for English Language Learners (ELLs) and former ELLs can be found in the *School Administrator's Manual for Paper-Based Field Testing* (<http://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/grades-3-8-field-testing>).

## **STEP THREE** Prepare Your Paper-Based Field Testing Room

- Plan for the distribution and collection of materials.
- Provide a well-lit, well-ventilated, and quiet testing room.
- Plan seating arrangements. Allow enough space between students to prevent sharing of answers. To help prevent communication between students during field testing, make sure that each student is clearly visible to the proctor at all times. Students must not be permitted to speak to one another while the field test is being administered.
- Completely cover—or remove from the walls—mathematics aids or charts and all board work pertaining to mathematics.
- Eliminate distractions such as bells or telephones.
- Place a “Do Not Disturb” sign on the door of the testing room.
- Make sure students’ desks and the shelves under desks are cleared of all extraneous materials.

## **STEP FOUR** Prepare Your Students

- Help students approach the field test in a relaxed, positive way.
- Be sure students understand the directions, how to mark their answers for the multiple-choice questions in the field test booklets, and how to record constructed-response answers in the field test booklets.
- Assist them with field test-taking procedures, but be careful not to inadvertently give hints or clues that indicate an answer. Do not assist students with any field test questions.
- Encourage students to attempt all questions. Tell them to read each question carefully and make their best attempt at answering each one.

### **Use Standardized Testing Procedures**

This field test must be administered under standard conditions. Follow the directions carefully. The same field test administration procedures must be used with all students so that valid conclusions can be drawn from the field test results.

**STEP FIVE**

# Prepare Paper-Based Field Test Materials

## Biographical Data and Labels

- For each student in your class, verify that you have the correct preprinted student identification label and apply it to the correct field test booklet before testing.
- If there is not a preprinted student identification label for a student, complete the demographic section on the back cover of a field test booklet for that student.

## Mathematics Tools

- Each student must have a ruler and protractor for their exclusive use during the field test (not provided). Specifications for mathematics tools can be found in **Appendix C** of the *School Administrator's Manual for Paper-Based Field Testing* (<http://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/grades-3-8-field-testing>).
- Before administering the field test, examine all rulers and protractors to be sure they are in adequate condition and that they do not have pertinent information, such as mathematics formulas, written on them.
- All field test booklets for Grade 6 contain removable mathematics reference sheets that the students can use during testing. The mathematics reference sheets include the necessary formulas and reference information students need to assist them in answering certain mathematics questions.
- Grade 6 students must have the use of a four-function calculator with a square root key or a scientific calculator.
- Graphing calculators are **not** allowed.

**STEP SIX**

# Administer the 2023 Grade 6 Mathematics Paper-Based Field Test

*Please read these directions carefully before administering the field test. When you administer the field test, the directions you are to read aloud are preceded by **SAY**. Read all directions to students at a moderate, steady pace. The italicized instructions to teachers should **not** be read aloud.*

*Make sure you have a copy of the field test booklet.*

*Make sure each student has a No. 2 pencil, a ruler, a protractor, and a four-function calculator with a square root key or a scientific calculator. Students may **not** use pens. Students may be permitted to use highlighters when taking this field test. You must, however, monitor student use of highlighters to ensure that they are not being used by students to record their responses to questions or in a way that obscures their responses to questions.*

*Make sure to clear, reset, or disable the memory of any calculator with programming capability. Students are **not** to be given scratch paper.*

*Students must record their answers to the multiple-choice and constructed-response questions in their field test booklets.*

*At the beginning of the field test administration, proctors must read the following statement to all students taking State field tests:*

**SAY** You cannot have any personal communications device, including a cell phone, with you during this test or during any breaks, such as a restroom visit. Such devices include, but are not limited to:

- Cell phones
- iPods and MP3 players
- iPads, tablets, and other eReaders
- Personal laptops, notebooks, or any other computing devices
- Cameras, other photographic equipment, and scanning devices
- Wearable devices/smart wearables, including smart watches and health wearables with a display
- Headphones, headsets, or in-ear headphones such as earbuds, and
- Any other device capable of recording audio, photographic, or video content, or capable of viewing or playing back such content, or sending/receiving text, audio, or video messages

**SAY** If you brought any of these items to the building today, and have not already stored it in your locker or turned it over to me, a test monitor, or school official, you must give it to me now. You may not keep your cell phone or any of these items with you, or near you, including in your pockets, backpack, desk, etc. Is there anyone who needs to give me any of these items now?

**SAY** This is your last opportunity to do so before the field test begins.

*Repeat list of devices. Pick up devices from students and return them after testing.*

**SAY** Today, you will be taking the 2023 Grade 6 Mathematics Field Test.

You may use your ruler, protractor, calculator, and mathematics reference sheet, which you will find shortly, after we open the field test booklets, to help you solve some of the problems on the field test. You will mark your answers to multiple-choice questions and write your responses to the written-response questions in your field test booklet.

You may use only a No. 2 pencil. You may not use a pen.

**Are there any questions?**

*Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand the instructions, distribute to each student a field test booklet. If earlier today the student identification labels were affixed to the back covers of the student field test booklets, make sure each student receives the correct field test booklet.*

**SAY** This is your field test booklet. Do not open your field test booklet until I tell you to do so.

Look at the cover of your field test booklet. Make sure it says “2023 Mathematics Field Test” and “Grade 6.” If you do not have the correct booklet, please raise your hand and I will give you the correct one.

Find the word “Name” at the top of the cover. Write your first and last name on the blank line.

*Check to make sure each student has written their name on the front cover of the field test booklet.*

**SAY** Now, open your field test booklet and remove your mathematics reference sheet. You can use the reference sheet during the field test.

*Pause as students remove their mathematics reference sheets. When you are certain that all students are done,*

**SAY** Now, look at page 1. You will see Tips for Taking the Test.

*Check that all students are looking at the correct page.*

**SAY** Please read along silently as I read the Tips for Taking the Test aloud to you.

*Read the Tips for Taking the Test aloud as the students follow along.*

**SAY** Here are some suggestions to help you do your best:

- Read each question carefully and think about the answer before making your choice or writing your response.

- You have been provided with mathematics tools (a ruler, a protractor, and a calculator) and a reference sheet to use during the test. It is up to you to decide when each tool and the reference sheet will be helpful. You should use mathematics tools and the reference sheet whenever you think they will help you to answer the question.
- Be sure to show your work when asked.

**Are there any questions?**

*Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand the Tips for Taking the Test,*

**SAY** For the multiple-choice questions, you must mark your answers in your field test booklet by darkening the circle for the letter that matches your answer. Use only a No. 2 pencil. If you make a mistake in your field test booklet, erase your mistake completely and darken the circle for the letter that matches your answer.

For the written-response questions, you must write your answers directly in your field test booklet in the space provided for the question. You may not use additional paper for your answers. Write your answers clearly and legibly. It is important to show all your work when asked as well as your final answer in your field test booklet. If you make a mistake, erase it completely or draw a line through it. Use only a No. 2 pencil. You may not use a pen or highlighter to record any of your answers.

When you see the words GO ON at the bottom of a field test booklet page, go on to the next page. When you come to the word STOP, you have reached the end of the field test. You may go back and check your work. When you are finished, please close your field test booklet.

**Are there any questions?**

*Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand how to take the test,*

**SAY** Before each question you will see how many credits the question is worth. For example, "This question is worth 2 credits."

**Are there any questions?**

*Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand the statement indicating the question's credit value,*

**SAY** You must work independently, and you may not speak with each other while this field test is being administered.

**Now, please turn to page 2 and begin.**

*Make sure that students are recording their answers to the multiple-choice questions and the constructed-response questions in their field test booklets.*

*Students should remain quietly at their desks when they finish the field test. The proctor may collect the field test materials either as students complete the field test or when most of the students have finished. Make sure to also collect all mathematics reference sheets.*

*Students who finish the field test before other students should check their work. Once the student is finished, field test materials may be collected by the proctor. After a student's field test materials are collected, that student may be permitted to read silently. This privilege is granted at the discretion of each school. No talking and no other schoolwork is permitted. Once all students complete the field test, you may end the session.*

*If the field test is administered in a large-group setting, school administrators may prefer to allow students to hand in their field test materials as they finish and then leave the room. If so, take care that students leave the room as quietly as possible so as not to disturb the students who are still working on the field test.*

*Follow security procedures established by your principal or school administrator for returning secure field test materials.*









**Field test booklets must be kept secure. You are not to discuss the field test, show it to anyone, or photocopy the materials, as the security of the field test could be breached. However, school personnel may make photocopies of this *Teacher's Directions* if additional copies are needed.**



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