



1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Building 6 • Charleston, WV 25305
wvde.us

March 2018

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

The West Virginia Department of Education will administer the West Virginia General Summative Assessment for Grades 3-8 in spring 2018 in the areas of English language arts (ELA), mathematics and science. This untimed test, which will be administered online, is used to measure academic progress for students and schools in West Virginia.

All public school students enrolled in the grades identified in this letter will participate in the West Virginia General Summative Assessment at the grade level in which they are enrolled, unless they meet the criteria for participation in the West Virginia Alternate Summative Assessment.

This year's test, which is a different test from the one given last year, will include four components:

- ELA Reading
- ELA Writing
- Mathematics
- Science

Students in grades 3-8 will take ELA reading, ELA writing and mathematics. Only students in grades 5 and 8 will be required to take science. Student performance on the ELA reading and ELA writing components will be combined to obtain an overall ELA score. The results of the test provide information about a student's academic strengths and areas that need improvement. An Individual Student Report for each student will be sent to parents/guardians.

I respectfully request that you encourage your child to perform to his/her best ability during the West Virginia General Summative Assessment this spring. Additional information regarding this year's assessment is provided on the informational sheet included with this letter.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the principal or counselor at your child's school or the district test coordinator at your district's central office.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Paine, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

SLP/VR:mm

Enclosure

West Virginia General Summative Assessment Grades 3-8

An Informational Guide for Parents/Guardians



This informational guide provides additional information regarding the West Virginia General Summative Assessment, including a break-down of each content area test. To review items similar to those students may see on the assessment, we encourage you take a practice test by visiting <https://wv.portal.airast.org/training-tests.shtml>.

Mathematics Test

Grades 3-8 Participate

Item Types

- Multiple-Choice Questions
- Computer-Enabled Questions

Grade level assessment concepts are shown below:

Grades 3 – 5

Concepts/Procedures

- Numbers and Operations in Base Ten and Fractions
- Operations and Algebraic Thinking
- Measurement, Data, and Geometry

Modeling and Problem Solving Use Mathematical Reasoning

Grades 6

Concepts/Procedures

- Ratios and Proportional Relationships and Number Systems
- Expressions and Equations
- Geometry & Statistics and Probability

Modeling and Problem Solving Use Mathematical Reasoning

Grade 7

Concepts/Procedures

- Ratios and Proportional Relationships and Number Systems
- Expressions and Equations
- Geometry
- Statistics and Probability

Modeling and Problem Solving Use Mathematical Reasoning

Grade 8

Concepts/Procedures

- Expressions and Equations and Number Systems
- Functions
- Geometry & Statistics and Probability

Modeling and Problem Solving Use Mathematical Reasoning

English Language Arts (ELA) Test

Grades 3-8 Participate

Item Types

- Multiple-Choice Questions
- Computer-Enabled Questions

Two Components

- ELA Reading
- ELA Writing – Students will read sources and write an essay in response to a given prompt.

Grade level assessment concepts are shown below:

Grades 3-8

- Reading Literature
- Reading Informational
- Writing

Science Test

Grades 5 & 8 Participate

Item types

- Multiple-Choice Questions
- Computer-Enabled Questions
- Embedded Field Test Questions

Grade Band assessment concepts are shown below:

Grades 5 & 8

- Life Science
- Physical Science
- Earth and Space Science



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Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

The West Virginia Department of Education will administer the West Virginia Alternate Summative Assessment, which is an instructionally relevant system that supports student learning and measures what students with significant cognitive disabilities know and can do.

All public school students who meet the participation criteria for alternate assessment set forth in the *Guidelines for Participation in West Virginia State Assessments* will participate in the alternate summative assessment at the grade level in which they are enrolled. Students are assessed in grades 3-8 and grade 11 for English language arts and mathematics, and in grades 5, 8, and 11 for science.

As an informational tool to prepare students for this annual assessment, the Office of Assessment has designed the enclosed *West Virginia Alternate Summative Assessment: An Informational Guide for Parents/Guardians*. This informational sheet describes the alternate summative assessment and the use of test results to measure students' levels of performance on the West Virginia Next Generation Alternate Achievement Standards and Objectives. The informational sheet is designed to be a compact, useful guide for understanding the components of alternate assessment.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher, guidance counselor or principal, or the district test coordinator at your district's central office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steven L. Paine".

Steven L. Paine, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

SP/VR:cc

Enclosure

West Virginia Alternate Summative Assessment

An Informational Guide for Parents/Guardians



This informational guide provides additional information regarding the West Virginia Alternate Summative Assessment, which is specifically designed for students with significant intellectual disabilities whose performance cannot be adequately assessed through the general summative assessment, even with accommodations.

Important Information

Students who are administered the alternate assessment must be instructed using the appropriate grade level Alternate Academic Achievement Standards. Students on alternate assessment receive a modified diploma.

The alternate assessment documents a student's efforts, achievement and progress on instructional activities aligned to specific West Virginia Alternate Academic Achievement Standards and includes descriptions of what students should know and be able to do at each grade level in a specific content area.

The alternate assessment is administered individually to students and measures performance in three content areas:

English Language Arts (ELA)

- Grades 3-8 and 11

Mathematics

- Grades 3-8 and 11

Science

- Grades 5, 8 and 11

Frequent Questions

How does participating in statewide assessments benefit my child?

Assessments provide important information about progress and achievement. Assessment results help the IEP Team plan the best instruction to meet your child's specific educational needs.

Who determines how my child will be assessed?

Your child's IEP Team makes decisions about assessment. You and the other IEP Team members follow state guidelines to decide how your child participates in statewide assessments.

Will I receive my child's assessment results?

Yes, you will receive an individual student report that shows your child's performance level in each content area.

Dynamic Learning Maps™

West Virginia is a member of the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Consortium. The assessments are online and are linked to the Next Generation Alternate Academic Achievement Standards (WVBE Policy 2520.16; 2520.161; and 2520.162).

All children participate in state accountability assessments. The Dynamic Learning Maps™ Alternate Assessment System (DLM™) is an instructionally relevant system that supports student learning and measures what students with significant cognitive disabilities know and can do.

Your child does not need to prepare in any way for the assessment. Assessments are delivered in testlets with each testlet containing 3 to 8 questions. Students receive between 5 and 7 testlets, depending on the grade and subject. The assessment is administered in a one-on-one setting. The assessment is designed to meet the individualized needs of each student.

All times noted are estimates and ranges.

Total testing time varies depending on a student's unique learning needs. Testlets may be taken separately across multiple testing sessions as long as they are all completed within the testing window.

Total Testing Time

- 70-90 minutes in ELA
- 35-60 minutes in mathematics
- 30-60 minutes in science

All results are completely confidential, and you will be provided a performance report. If you would like more information about DLM, please visit:

<http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/westvirginia>.

For more information, please contact your child's school or your district board office

2018 KCS SPRING ASSESSMENT CALENDAR

April 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 SAT TEST SCHOOL DAY GR 11	11 SAT GR 11 ACCOMMS Window April 10 - 23	12	13	14
15	16 CBA GR 3-8 Window	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 CBA GR 3-8 Window	24 SAT TEST GR11 Make up	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	CBA GR 3-8 Window	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 ELECTION DAY	9 WVGSA GR 3 & 6 ELA	10 WVGSA GR 3 & 6 MATH	11 WVGSA GR 3 & 6 WRITING	12
13	14 Make Up	15 GR 4 & 7 ELA	16 GR 4 & 7 MATH	17 GR 4 & 7 WRITING	18 GR 4 & 7 Make up	19
20	21 Make Up	22 GR 5 & 8 ELA	23 GR 5 & 8 MATH	24 GR 5 & 8 WRITING	25 GR 5 & 8 SCIENCE & Make up	26
27	28 Make up	29 GR 3-8 Make up	30 GR 3-8 Make up	31 GR 3-8 Make up	June 1 Last Day to Test GR 3-8	

