



1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Building 6 • Charleston, WV 25305
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February 2019

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 2019 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 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; students must take both components to ensure a valid and reliable 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 student's school or the district test coordinator at your county's central office.

Sincerely,

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

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

SLP/VR:cc

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 breakdown of each content area test. The mathematics and ELA tests are computer adaptive, which means the tests adapt to each individual student based on whether the student answers the questions correctly. The science test is a matrix design, which means each student will see items covering a portion of the grade-band standards. 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

- The test administered at each grade covers that grade's mathematics content.

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

Grade 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

- The test administered at each grade covers that grade's ELA content.

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

- The test administered in Grade 5 covers science content taught in Grades 3, 4, and 5.
- The test administered in Grade 8 covers science content taught in Grades 6, 7, and 8.

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