

## **Ohio's State Tests**

### **Information for Students and Families**

Ohio's State Tests measure student progress toward Ohio's Learning Standards. They help us make sure every Ohio student receives a high-quality education. Student test results show that students have the knowledge and skills they need to move successfully to their next steps in education or a career.

Federal and state laws require state testing for specific grades and subjects.

#### **WILL THERE BE STATE TESTS IN 2015-2016?**

Yes.

#### **WHAT TESTING CHANGES MUST OHIO MAKE FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR?**

As part of the current budget law, the Ohio Department of Education will develop new tests in mathematics and English language arts with the assistance of Ohio educators. To build these new tests, the department will use its existing contract with the American Institutes for Research (AIR), a well-known test vendor. AIR currently provides Ohio's science and social studies tests. The new tests will be:

- Shorter than those given last school year;
- Given during one testing window; and
- Given during the second half of the school year, close to the end of the school year. High schools also may give end-of-course tests at the end of the first semester, and elementary schools will give the grade 3 English language arts test Nov. 30-Dec. 11.

The role of Ohio educators will be to help review the questions and test construction.

#### **HOW LONG WILL THE TEST BE?**

Each test will be approximately three hours and will be divided into two parts. Districts will choose whether their students will take a test in two sessions or in one session.

#### **WHY DO WE HAVE STATE TESTS?**

State tests are critical for measuring student learning and ensuring that all of Ohio's students receive a high-quality education. The results from state tests provide the public with much-needed information about how all students are performing. Student test scores are the foundation of Ohio school and district report cards, which are designed to show parents, taxpayers and school leaders how well our students are performing. State tests are one way we identify schools and districts that need additional support and recognize those that have done a great job helping all students learn.

## **WHICH GRADES AND SUBJECTS TAKE STATE TESTS?**

<b>Grades 3-8</b>	English language arts and mathematics
<b>Grades 4 and 6</b>	Social studies
<b>Grades 5 and 8</b>	Science

### **High School**

Classes of 2018 and beyond – English language arts I and II; algebra I, geometry, and integrated mathematics I and II; biology (or physical science for class of 2018 only); and American history, American government.

Classes of 2015-2017 – Ohio Graduation Tests, American history, American government

Tests for fall 2015 block classes will be in 15 consecutive school days for online tests within Nov. 30 to Jan. 8 and 10 consecutive school days for paper format within Dec. 8 to Jan. 8.

## **WHAT IS THE FORMAT OF THE TESTS?**

Districts have the option in the 2015-2016 school year to give students the tests on computers or in a paper format. Schools may elect to administer some grades/tests online and other grades/tests on paper.

## **WHEN ARE THE SPRING TESTS?**

Tests will occur in a period of 15 consecutive school days for online tests and 10 consecutive school days for paper tests.

English language arts for all students will be within April 4 to 29.

Mathematics, science and social studies will be within April 4 to May 13.

## **HOW CAN I STAY IN THE KNOW ABOUT THE NEW STATE TESTS?**

Please visit the [2015-2016 State Tests Updates website](http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Testing/2015_2016-State-Tests-Updates) at [education.ohio.gov/Topics/Testing/2015\\_2016-State-Tests-Updates](http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Testing/2015_2016-State-Tests-Updates) and register to receive updates when they are posted.