



New York State Standardized Tests

Standardized Test Results

- You will be mailed a **Parent Report** from New York State that will explain how your child scored on the state tests, areas your child is strong in, and areas in need of improvement.
- Each year, New York State puts out a **School Report Card** that can help you get information about your child's school, see how all students in your child's school are doing on state tests, and find out if the school is meeting the goals of No Child Left Behind.
- Ask the school for a copy or view your school's report card on the New York State Department of Education's website at www.nysed.gov

What are the state tests?

The state tests given in New York are standardized tests. Standardized tests are developed by experts and must be given to students at the same time in the same way. They are tests that measure what a student knows compared with other students at the same grade level.

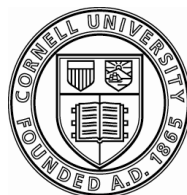
New York gives students tests in:

- English Language Arts (ELA)
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies

The tests are given to make sure students are meeting the state standards in each of these areas. The New York State Learning Standards state what students should know, understand, and be able to do by the time they finish school.

Why does my child have to take the NYS tests?

The statewide tests show student progress and are part of the accountability system of the **No Child Left Behind Act of 2001**. The federal government uses the tests to see if New York State schools are doing what they need to be doing by looking at students' test scores. The tests help the government see what schools are doing well and what schools need to do better.



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When are the tests given?

- English Language Arts (ELA) and Math are tested every year in grades 3-8 and once in grades 10-12. ELA tests are usually given in January. Math tests are usually given in March.
- A written and a hands-on lab test is given in Science in grade 4, in grade 8 and in grades 10-12. Science tests are usually given in April or May.
- Social Studies is tested in grade 5 and in grade 8. The Social Studies tests are usually given in November.
- Ask your child's school for specific test dates.

How can I help my child prepare for the state tests?

The tests measure what your child has learned about a subject over a long period of time. Preparing for tests happens all school year as students do schoolwork and homework. You can help your child by:

- Encouraging your child to read
- Monitoring homework
- Talking with your child about school
- Monitoring screen time (TV, video games, computer)

Also, make sure your child gets a good night's sleep the night before the test and a good breakfast the morning of the test.

Try not to get stressed about the test and encourage your child to remain calm. It is important to remember that one test cannot give you the full picture of what your child can and cannot do. Tests cannot measure how creative or hard working your child is. To fully understand how well your child is meeting the standards, it is important to look at many different things including:

- Classroom tests
- Homework
- Writing assignments
- Information from the teacher

Samples of the tests can be found on the New York State Department of Education website at
<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/>

Families and Communities Together with Schools
Parental Information and Resource Center (PIRC)

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This publication was produced in whole or in part with funds from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement, Parental Information and Resource Center program, under grant #84.310.A. The content herein does not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Education, any other agency of the U.S. government, or any other source.

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