

**PARENTS' FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT  
NEW YORK STATE'S ANNUAL GRADES 3–8  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS & MATHEMATICS TESTS & THE ELEMENTARY-LEVEL (GRADE 5) AND  
INTERMEDIATE-LEVEL (GRADE 8) SCIENCE TESTS**

The Grades 3–8 English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Science Tests are administered in the spring to students across New York State. These annual tests for students in Grades 3–8 are required by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015. Public and charter school students enrolled in Grades 3–8 are expected to take the ELA, math, and science tests administered for their grade level. The tests are designed to measure how well students are mastering the learning standards that guide classroom instruction and are a valuable tool used to help ensure students have the support needed to succeed. The tests can also help identify any learning needs a student may have. The annual tests are one measure used to assess student learning and is one tool of many used by educators to ensure students are getting the services and supports they need to prepare for career, college, and civic readiness.

**1. What is computer-based testing (CBT)?**

- Students testing on computer will select their answers for the multiple-choice questions on the computer instead of on an answer sheet and will type their responses to the open-ended questions on the computer instead of handwriting them in paper test booklets. For the science tests, students will also respond to technology-enhanced items. Technology enhanced items include graphing items, drag-and-drop items, multi-select items, and grid items.
- CBT has been successfully implemented in many states. New York State builds on its [statewide transition to CBT](#) for the Grades 3–8 ELA, Math and Science Tests in 2025. In Spring 2025, students in Grades 4, 5, 6, and 8 will take the ELA, math, and science tests via CBT. Grades 3 & 7 may also participate in CBT, but paper-based testing will still be available for schools that choose to test these students on paper. The transition will continue in 2026, with

**6. How are New York State teachers involved in the test development process?**

- Hundreds of New York State educators were involved in creating, reviewing, and selecting questions for the