



Whitesboro Central School District

Office of the Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Accountability

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Dear Parent,

This spring, the New York State Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Tests will be administered to students. ELA testing will take place March 28-30, and mathematics testing is scheduled for May 2-4.

The 2017 tests will be the same length and will be administered in the same way as the 2016 tests. As you may recall, the State Education Department, made changes to the 2016 tests in response to concerns from parents and educators. There were also changes related to the principal and teacher evaluation system, which is called the Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR).

Below you will find a summary of the changes that were made to the 2016 Grades 3-8 English Language Arts and Mathematics Tests that will be carried over to the 2017 tests.

Testing

- Students who are still working on their exams will be allowed to continue to work, within the confines of the regular school day, beyond the recommended testing times.
- Fewer questions on the tests.
- The tests have been thoroughly reviewed and constructed by New York State educators to ensure they measure what students are learning in their classrooms.
- Student performance on the 2017 Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics Tests will have no employment-related consequences for teacher and principal evaluations.

Release of Test Questions and Instructional Reports

- Test questions and instructional reports will be released before the end of the school year. The State Education Department will release at least 75% of questions from the 2017 tests and the instructional reports for educators on or around June 1. You can view [2016 test questions](https://www.engageny.org/3-8) (https://www.engageny.org/3-8) on EngageNY.

Improved Parent Resources

- Clearer Score Reports. The 2016 Grades 3-8 English Language Arts and Mathematics Test Score Reports for parents were redesigned to be clearer and provide more information about what students should know and be able to do at each grade level.

Our Mission

To inspire. cultivate. and empower all learners to maximize their potential.

- More information. [Additional information about assessments for parents](https://www.engageny.org/resource/assessment-parents-and-community-members) (<https://www.engageny.org/resource/assessment-parents-and-community-members>) is available on EngageNY.
- You can find more information about the [State tests](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/ei/eigen.html) (<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/ei/eigen.html>) on the State Education Department's website.

As a district, we encourage all students in grades 3-8 to take the New York State Assessments. The outcome of the grade level assessments is used to determine whether a school or school district is meeting expectations, and helps us to adjust instruction where appropriate in order to improve learning. When students who are able to participate refuse to do so, the reported results will not accurately reflect their needs or the needs of their school.

Students who do not participate in the New York State Assessments will be provided the opportunity to read quietly during the administration of the test. Alternate instruction will not be provided, and it is imperative that the testing environment not be compromised. All students must adhere to the regulations for the testing site.

If you have any further questions, please contact your child's teacher or principal.

Thank you,



David Russo

Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Accountability