



WHY STATEWIDE TESTING PARTICIPATION MATTERS TO STUDENTS

How Does Taking State Tests Help Me?

- It allows you to show what you've learned and practiced in your school.
- It lets you and your family know if your school is doing a good job supporting your learning.
- It gives you and your family information about how local schools in your community are meeting the needs of all students.
- It tells you and your family about your progress toward completing high school and success after high school, such as attending college and being ready for a career.

How Does Taking State Tests Help My School?

- It provides information to your principal and teachers about how well all students are doing at your school.

Did you know?

The United States passed a law in 2015 that **requires** statewide testing in certain grades and subjects. All students in these grades take state tests.

Not too long ago, some students were **not included** in testing. Back then, students with disabilities and English learners were often excluded.

By requiring that **all** students take the same test, schools and teachers can think about **all** students when they are planning.

- It allows your principal and teachers to see any differences between groups of students and make improvements, so that all students can succeed.
- It helps leaders who make decisions know which schools need more money and help.
- It draws attention if some groups of students do not perform as well as others and allows educators to address the learning needs of these students.

What Can My Family and I Do So I Feel Supported?

- Talk with your family and make sure everyone understands why you are taking a state test.
- Talk with your family and teachers about things that can help you during the test (a seat far from the window where you won't be distracted; repeated directions if you often miss some of the details; using resources and tools that are provided, such as answer masking to remove answers and "scratch paper" to make notes; and creating your own resources, such as a multiplication chart or a graphic organizer).
- Stay positive! Test scores are just one piece of information to use to reach your goals.
- Remember that testing is a regular part of learning and is supposed to help guide learning.
- Practice strategies that help you relax (breathing exercises, stretching, muscle relaxation), and then remember to use them during the test.
- Advocate for yourself to use and have available allowable accommodations and supports.

State tests are focused on testing certain skills, but additional information such as how engaged students are can provide information to help schools improve instruction for all students.

Statewide testing is meant to show how schools are doing. Statewide assessments are a point-in-time measure, and you may have learned more than you are able to show on the test.

Statewide Assessment can provide more information to teachers other than what is being tested, such as which students are using accommodations or tools, or how engaged students are while testing.

Letter Grades are a required component of State Accountability. Other factors may not be directly incorporated in these letter grades as part of what local districts, charters, and schools do to support all students.