




# State Testing 2016-2017

Presented to  
Sumner County School Board  
August 2, 2016  
Information obtained from TDOE



# Why do we participate in state assessments?

- They provide feedback regarding students' academic progress.
- They provide parents and teachers with a big-picture perspective on how individual students, classrooms, grade bands, and schools are progressing compared to peers across the district and state.
- They provide confidence and transparency about students' readiness for college and the workforce.

# Why do we participate in state assessments?

- They hold us accountable to serving all students fairly.
- They help us strengthen instruction and reflect on our practices.
- They allow us to highlight schools that are excelling, so we can learn from those who are doing well.
- They help inform decisions.
- We have no choice.

# What grades and subjects will participate this year?

- Grades 3-8
  - Math, English/Language Arts, Science
  - Social Studies will be field tested this year. It will not count toward accountability in grades 3-8.
  - Students with the most significant disabilities will take the MSAA for ELA and math and the TCAP Alternative Assessment for social studies and science.

# What grades and subjects will participate this year?

- High School End of Course (EOC) Exams:
  - English I, II, III
  - Algebra I, II and Geometry
  - US History
  - Chemistry
  - Biology
  - Students in grade 10 with the most significant disabilities will take the TCAP Alternative Assessment for science.
  - Students in grade 11 with the most significant disabilities will take the MSAA for ELA and math.

# When will the assessment be given?

- State assessments will be administered during a three-week window between April 17 and May 5.
- For high school fall block, the assessment window will be from November 28 through December 16.
- The assessments for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities will take place over a two month window in the spring.
- **The Part I and Part II structure from SY 2015-2016 has been eliminated.**

# How will the assessments be structured?

- With the exception of biology and chemistry, all subjects will be delivered in multiple subparts or sessions, allowing for greater scheduling flexibility within the window:
  - ELA – four subparts
  - Math – three subparts
  - Science (grades 3-8) – two subparts
  - US History – three subparts
  - Social Studies Field Test – 1-2 subparts
  - Biology and Chemistry – 1 part

# How much time will students spend taking state assessments compared to last year?

- Grades 3-8 – 200-210 minutes shorter
  - For example, a typical third grader will spend 210 minutes (three hours and 30 minutes) less on state assessments this year compared to the past year.
- High School EOCs – 40-120 minutes
  - For a typical eleventh grader, this means that this year's assessments will be shorter in total by 225 minutes (three hours and 45 minutes) compared to last year.



# Grades 3-5 Reduction in Time

- English Language Arts = 95 minutes
- Math = 20 minutes
- Science = no change
- Social Studies Field Test = 95 minutes

= 210 minutes

# Grades 9-11 Reduction in Time

- English I, II, III = 120 minutes
- Algebra I, II and Geometry = 65 minutes
- US History = 40 minutes
- Biology = No Change
- Chemistry = No Change

# Online or Paper/Pencil?

- The online administration will be phased in over multiple years to ensure state technology readiness.
- The assessment for grades 3-8 will be administered via paper and pencil this year.
- The TDOE is working closely with Questar to provide an online option for high school EOCs for math, English, and US History. Districts will have the option of paper/pencil or online.
- Biology and chemistry EOCs will be administered via paper/pencil.

# When will we receive scores?

- High school quick scores for fall block will be received by schools in early January.
- Individual student reports will be mailed in early summer.
- Score reports for grades 3-8 will not be available until fall of 2017. In future years, grade 3-8 score reports will be released over the summer.

# What about teacher evaluations and assessments?

- The data from this year's new tests will only be included in a teacher's evaluation score if it benefits the teacher's score.

# What about student accommodations?

- The full range of accommodations will be available to make the test accessible for all students to participate.
- IEP teams will be provided guidance on how to select the appropriate accommodations for students. The accommodation options will be similar to last year's options.

# Do EL students take the assessments?

- EL students are required to participate in any state or federal mandated assessments, including achievement assessments.
- The only exception is for a student who is in her or his first year in a U.S. school. First year EL students may be exempt from English/Language Arts, social studies, and U.S. History assessments. However, the first-year EL student must take the math assessment.
- Testing accommodations may apply to EL students.

# When can teachers and parents see an example of the new assessments?

- The new assessments have not been developed. For the first time, teachers will be involved in writing test items.
- As in the past, teachers will also be involved in the item review, bias and sensitivity review, accessibility review, and rangefinding.



# What about K-2 Students?

- Students in K-1 do not take traditional, standardized state assessments.
- The TDOE will offer a new Tennessee-specific optional second grade assessment. This test is being created in partnership with Tennessee teachers, and it will measure student learning of the TN state standards for math and ELA.
- Districts may choose to participate in the spring of 2017.

# What is the district doing to prepare students and teachers?

- We are revising our subject-area blueprints to be more closely aligned with the state's recently released blueprints.
- We are updating and re-creating benchmark assessments so teachers and principals can judge student progress and instructional effectiveness.
- Practice tests will be available from the TDOE in November.
- There will be a renewed emphasis on the standards.
- Common Formative Assessments

# What is the district doing to prepare students and teachers?

- District-Wide Content Symposiums
- Demonstration Classrooms
- Substitutes Provided for Visits to the Demonstration Classrooms
- Lead Educators in Coaching Role
- Foundation Reading Professional Learning
- Focused Walk-Throughs
- Strong instruction every day is the best preparation for students.

# Communication

- TDOE documents were sent to board members and principals as soon as they were released.
- The TDOE documents were placed on the district's website as soon as they were released.
- Principals were asked to post them on each individual school's website
- The documents were sent to ALL employees on Monday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, the first official day of the school year for teachers.

# Future Communication

- As in the past, once more information is received, the district office will put together a more detailed presentation for individual school leaders to use with parents, students, and other stakeholders.
- As in the past, a one-page detailed information sheet will be designed by the district office and sent to individual principals for their use with parents.
- Both of these documents will also be placed on the district's website.

# Things to Keep in Mind

- This is a state assessment, not a district assessment.
- We have published every piece of information we have been given regarding the state assessment.
- We will continue to update principals, teachers, and our stakeholders as we receive information.
- As in everything we do, we want Sumner County students to have an advantage over students of other districts. Therefore, we will continue to do all that we know to prepare our students and teachers for success.