



1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Building 6 • Charleston, WV 25305
wvde.us

February 2024

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

The West Virginia Department of Education will administer the West Virginia General Summative Assessment (WVGSA) for Grades 3-8 in spring 2024. The WVGSA measures academic progress for students and schools in West Virginia.

The WVGSA is an untimed test administered online. All public school students – including public virtual school students, public charter school students, and public virtual charter school students – will participate in the WVGSA at the grade level in which they are enrolled, unless they meet the criteria for participation in the West Virginia Alternate Summative Assessment. The test will be administered at your student's school or at another location to be determined by the county or charter school.

Students in Grades 3-8 will take the English language arts (ELA) reading, ELA writing, and mathematics sections of the test, with students in Grades 5 and 8 also taking science. Parents/guardians will be able to access student scores through the Parent Portal. Students also will receive individual video score reports. Your student's school will provide more information regarding how to access student scores through the Parent Portal and video reports later.

I respectfully request that you encourage your student to perform to the best of their ability during the WVGSA this spring. The Frequently Asked Questions document included with this letter will provide additional details regarding this year's test administration. A separate informational sheet that provides more details about the WVGSA also is included.

Your student's school will provide you with more information about this year's administration, including when the assessment will be administered. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the principal or counselor at your student's school, or the county test coordinator at your county's board of education office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele L. Blatt".

Michele L. Blatt
State Superintendent of Schools

MLB/VR:cc

Enclosures



West Virginia General Summative Assessment

Grades 3-8 | *An Informational Guide for Parents/Guardians*

This informational guide provides information regarding the West Virginia General Summative Assessment, including a breakdown of each content area test. The mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA) tests are computer adaptive, which means the tests adapt to each individual student based on whether the student answers the questions correctly. The science test is a matrix designed computer adaptive test, which means each student will see items covering a portion of the grade-band standards. To review items similar to those students may see on the assessment, we encourage you take a practice test by visiting <https://wv.portal.cambiumast.com/families.html>.

Mathematics Test

Grades 3-8 Participate

- The test administered at each grade covers that grade's mathematics content.

Item Types

- Multiple-Choice Questions
- Computer-Enabled Questions

Grade level assessment concepts are shown below:

Grades 3-5

- Concepts/Procedures
 - » Numbers and Operations in Base Ten and Fractions
 - » Operations and Algebraic Thinking
 - » Measurement, Data, and Geometry
- Modeling and Problem Solving
- Use Mathematical Reasoning

Grade 6

- Concepts/Procedures
 - » Ratios and Proportional Relationships and Number Systems
 - » Expressions and Equations
 - » Geometry & Statistics and Probability
- Modeling and Problem Solving
- Use Mathematical Reasoning

Grade 7

- Concepts/Procedures
 - » Ratios and Proportional Relationships and Number Systems
 - » Expressions and Equations
 - » Geometry
 - » Statistics and Probability
- Modeling and Problem Solving
- Use Mathematical Reasoning

Grade 8

- Concepts/Procedures
 - » Expressions and Equations and Number Systems
 - » Functions
 - » Geometry & Statistics and Probability
- Modeling and Problem Solving
- Use Mathematical Reasoning

ELA Test

Grades 3-8 Participate

- The test administered at each grade covers that grade's ELA content.

Item Types

- Multiple-Choice Questions
- Computer-Enabled Questions

Two Components

- ELA Reading
- ELA Writing – Students will read sources or view a picture and write an essay in response to a given prompt.

Students must complete both the reading and the writing sections to obtain an overall ELA Score.

Grade level assessment concepts are shown below:

Grades 3-8

- Reading Literary Text
- Reading Informational Text
- Writing and Language

Science Test

Grades 5 & 8 Participate

- The test administered in Grade 5 covers science content taught in Grades 3, 4, and 5.
- The test administered in Grade 8 covers science content taught in Grades 6, 7, and 8.

Item types

- Multiple-Choice Questions
- Computer-Enabled Questions
- Embedded Field Test Questions

Grade Band assessment concepts are shown below:

Grades 5 & 8

- Life Science
- Physical Science
- Earth and Space Science



Frequently Asked Questions

Spring 2024 West Virginia General Summative Assessment (WVGSA)

Q. What are the benefits for students to take the WVGSA?

- A. The WVGSA provides important information that can be used to help improve instruction for each individual student. Results from the assessment can help teachers and school administrators pinpoint areas of weakness and identify possible achievement gaps to help teachers adjust instruction for each student. It is important that we obtain a valid measure of your student's academic achievement.

Q: How can I support my student before testing?

- A: You can help your student understand the importance of taking state tests through positive conversations and continuous support. Encourage your student to do their best. Saying things like "I know you can do it!" teaches them to believe in themselves. Make sure your student gets a good night's sleep and a good nutritious breakfast on the day of testing can help, too.

Q. How can I see my student's results?

- A: You will be able to see your student's WVGSA results in the Parent Portal in August. Your student's school will provide you with information on how to access the portal. In addition to your student's WVGSA scores, you also will be able to see Lexile and Quantile scores in the portal. Your student also will receive a link to a customized video score report.

Q. Will students' WVGSA scores affect their grades, promotion, or graduation?

- A. WVGSA results generally do not influence students' grades or grade-level advancement. However, results may be used to assess students' academic status when making decisions during the scheduling of courses, Student Assistant Team (SAT) meetings, etc. No aspect of WVDE Policy 2510 requires achievement scores for graduation.

Q. Can students opt out of taking the state's summative assessment in spring 2024?

- A. Neither West Virginia law nor the regulations of the West Virginia Board of Education contain any provisions for "opting-out" of statewide assessments, and we are aware of no legal right for parents or students to do so.

Q. When and where will students take the test?

- A. Each county or public charter school will determine its own testing schedule within a larger statewide testing window. Your student's school will provide specific information regarding testing dates, times, and locations for testing.

Q. Do virtual school students and public charter school students have to take the test?

- A. Yes, virtual school students and public charter school students are considered public school students and are required to take the annual statewide summative tests at the grade level they are enrolled.