

# Parents' Guide to the New York State Testing Program

## Why do we have an annual statewide test in grades 3-8?

- ❖ New York State's annual English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Tests are designed to measure how well students are mastering the learning standards that guide classroom instruction and to ensure students are on track to graduate from high school with the critical thinking, problem solving, and reasoning skills needed for success in today's world.
- ❖ The federal Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 requires students in grades 3-8 are tested once a year in ELA and Math. Additionally, students in grades 4 and 8 will take the New York State Science Test. Students enrolled in the Grade 7 Science Accelerated course will be eligible to take the Grade 8 Science Assessment.

## What are the dates for the 2020-2021 test?

- ELA – April 20-22, 2021
- Math – May 4-6, 2021
- Science (Performance) - May 25-June 4, 2021
- Science (Written) – June 7, 2021

## What types of questions are asked on the tests?

- ❖ The tests include both multiple choice and open-ended questions, which assess grade level learning standards. The questions require students to apply their knowledge and explain their reasoning. Students will read complex texts, write well-reasoned responses, and solve real-world problems, all of which provide the foundation for necessary skills to practice and master to succeed in college and careers.
- ❖ Test questions are released by New York State, which can be viewed on EngageNY.

## How long are the tests?

- ❖ The ELA and Math Tests are 2 days each, with unlimited time.
- ❖ The Science Test has two components. The Performance Test is given during your child's regularly scheduled science class. The Written Test is 1 day, with 2 hours of seat time.

## Why is it important for my child to take these tests?

- ❖ These tests provide teachers and schools with information that can be used to guide their instruction, class planning and help them to understand how well students are progressing in the skills and concepts being taught in the classroom.
- ❖ Results from the tests also help identify achievement gaps among different student populations. Without widespread participation on the tests, it is more difficult for school and district leaders to recognize these gaps and provide support and resources to the students who need them.

## Questions? Please contact:

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