



Dear Schodack families,

Next week, we will administer the New York State ELA assessments for grades 3-8 on April 2 and 3. Math assessments will take place May 1 and 2.

We strongly encourage parents to allow their children to take the assessments. Last year, 85% of our students who could take the test did. Schodack would like to continue to increase that participation rate.

A few notes about the assessments:

- Tests typically take 60 to 90 minutes to complete (although students can take as much time as they need).
- Testing is two days (was three days of testing prior to last year).
- Test results will have no impact on teacher performance evaluations.
- Testing accommodations, such as having the test read, are provided to students with special needs in accordance with their Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs) or 504 plans.

If you have a question, please do not hesitate to talk with your child's principal.

Sincerely,

Jason Chevrier
Superintendent



New York State Testing Frequently Asked Questions

When is state testing?

- Grade 3-8 ELA – April 2 & 3
- Grade 3-8 Math – May 1 & 2
- Gr. 4 Science Performance – May 22
- Gr. 8 Science Performance – May 23
- Gr. 4 & 8 Science Written – June 3

Do most students take them?

Yes. Approximately 85% of our students who were eligible to take the assessments last year took them.

How long are the assessments?

Students typically finish the assessments within **60 to 90 minutes**, although they are allowed as much time as they need. ELA and Math **testing is done over two days** in April and May, respectively.

Do test results impact teachers?

No. New York State agreed to end any link between test results and teacher performance earlier this year.

What about test anxiety?

Our faculty and staff do an outstanding job making your children as comfortable as possible taking these assessments. **Our message to students is simply try your best and it is fine if you do not know every answer.**

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

Results help the district improve education for your child. The district uses the assessment results to evaluate our instructional programs to provide a clearer picture of our curriculum strengths and weaknesses. For example, if we find our students struggle with a math concept, we may enhance instruction in that area with new resources or adjust how we teach the concept.

How do the tests benefit my child?

In addition to helping us improve the way we educate your child, the tests are also good practice for other standardized tests they will have to take. For example, all students must pass five Regents exams in order to graduate. **Taking these assessments now can help your child take future exams with confidence.**

What if I have a question?

Our school principals are available anytime to talk about state assessments. We want to ensure parents have answers to any questions they have about testing.

Castleton Elementary School – 518-732-7755
Maple Hill Jr./Sr. High School – 518-732-7701