

WHY STATEWIDE TESTING PARTICIPATION MATTERS TO TEACHERS

How Does Taking State Tests Help My Students?

- It allows your students to demonstrate what they learned and practiced in your classroom over the school year.
- It provides information to make sure that curriculum and instruction are aligned to rigorous, grade-level standards.
- It provides information to share with your students' families about their progress toward success after high school, such as college attendance and career readiness.
- It supports your efforts to hold all your students to the same high expectations.

How Does Taking State Tests Help My Students?

- It provides a complete and accurate picture of how all students are doing.
- It reveals performance gaps across different groups of students in your school and guides school strategies to address all students' educational needs.
- It ensures that policy development and distribution of resources support schools in most need.

FAQs about State Tests

Are all students required to participate in state tests?

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires the participation of all students in state tests. For students with disabilities, test participation is also required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Are state tests accessible for all students?

Most students take the general state test. Some need accommodations to access the test, and a few with the most significant cognitive disabilities take an alternate assessment.

How Can I Support My Students?

- Work with your students and their families to identify student accessibility needs. For students with disabilities and English learners, make sure accommodations are listed on their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or English learner plans.
- Remind your students and their families that testing is a regular part of teaching and learning during the school day.
- Explain to your students and their families that their score on the test is only one measure of student progress.
- Talk with your students and their families to help them understand that state tests are aligned to standards that prepare them to thrive in a global future.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

<https://www.ksde.gov/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Career-Standards-and-Assessment-Services/CSAS-Home/Assessments/Dynamic-Learning-Maps-DLM-Essential-Elements>

KANSAS ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

<https://ksassessments.org/>

DYNAMIC LEARNING MAPS

<https://dynamiclearningmaps.org/kansas>

Are state tests the only way to know how students are performing?

State tests are just one measure of student progress. In combination with other indicators, such as report cards, teacher feedback, and attendance, state tests contribute to a more complete picture about students' academic performance.

Is this the best way to know what students can do?

Statewide testing is meant to show a snapshot of how a whole school system is performing. This allows for decisions that will improve programming and provide targeted resources and support to different schools.

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NCEO is supported through a cooperative agreement (H326G160001) between the University of Minnesota, National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO) (#H326G160001) and the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), Office of Special Education Programs. The materials do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the U.S. Department of Education or Offices within it. Project Officer: David Egnor

KSDE ASSESSMENT'S HOMEPAGE

