

NYS Assessment Changes and Why Students Should Take the Assessment

NYS Assessment Grades 3-8

Changes to NYS Assessment: Individuals Involved in Writing the Assessment

Pearson (Old Vendor)	Questar (New Vendor)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Pearson Representatives✓ Guidance from NYSED	<p>Since Questar has obtained the contract they have worked with the partnerships listed below at various times to create the assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Contracted Companies: (WestEd, edCount)✓ NYSED (New York State Education Department)✓ NYS Classroom Teachers (doing all the item writing and involved throughout the process)

New Process

1. Before item writing (question writing) begins, passages are reviewed, leveled, and passed through a bias committee and range finding committee.
2. Item writers are trained.
3. Items are written.
4. Items are edited.
5. Items are reviewed by state bias and content committee.
6. Items are reviewed, revised, or rejected.
7. If items are approved they are approved by NYSED. If they are revised they are approved by NYSED before continuing to further steps.
8. Items are field tested.
9. Item data is analyzed by NYSED and Questar.
10. Items are approved, revised or rejected. If they are revised they must go through steps 7-9 again.

The item writing process was revised to ensure the passages are developmentally appropriate and fair for all students.

Changes to NYS Assessment: How the Assessment Will Look

- **Format, number of questions, and number of days have changed. The test is now two days. Last year it was three days. The number of questions and passages varies per grade level.**
 - Day 1 will focus on reading.
 - Day 2 will focus on writing.
- Questions will still reflect the standards.
- Reading level of the passages will still reflect the same Lexile band (reading level) as suggested by the standards.
- **Question language will be simplified.**
- **No item(question) will be tested until it is field tested and data is reviewed. Field tests took place in 2017 and will take place this year; questions will be imbedded into the NYS assessments. Separate Field Tests will also be given to select schools at the end of May and the beginning of June.**

Why Students Should Take the NYS Assessment

- Our district uses NYS Assessment data as one measure (of many) to identify student academic levels.
- The assessment provides information about student understanding of the NYS Common Core Standards.
- It prepares students to take NYS Regents Exams in High School.
- It helps students learn to persevere through difficult or potentially stressful situations.
- Student responses from field tests will be used to inform what items actually become future test questions.
- The assessment is NOT used to measure teacher effectiveness.
- The assessment is NOT used as a grade for students.
- Students will NOT be expected to finish in a particular amount of time.

Further Questions?

If you have any other questions about the NYS Assessment please contact Angie Holmes, Nicole DeLaney, Pam Brock, Bobbi Brock or your child's ELA/ math teacher.