



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

February 2023

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 2023. 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 an off-site 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. Individual student reports will be sent to parents/guardians, and students will receive individual video score reports as well.

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 blue ink that reads "David L. Roach".

David L. Roach  
State Superintendent of Schools

DLR/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 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 2023 West Virginia General Summative Assessment (WVGSA)

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**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: What kind of reports will students receive, and when will they get them?**

A: Students who take the WVGSA will receive printed student score reports with their results, as well as printed Lexile/Quantile Measures Reports. Your student also will receive a link to a customized video score report. All reports for the spring test administration will be distributed to students at the beginning of the next school year.

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

A. No, results from the WVGSA will not affect students' grades or keep students from advancing to the next grade or graduating high school.

**Q. Can students opt out of taking the state's summative assessment in spring 2023?**

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. Can students take the test remotely?**

A. No, remote testing is not allowed. All tests are administered in an in-person setting.

**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. The county or charter school will provide additional information regarding testing dates and times.

**Q. Are virtual school students and public charter school students required to take the test at the school?**

A. All students must take the tests in person at the schools where they are enrolled or at off-site locations established by the county or charter school for testing. Counties and schools will determine a schedule and notify you of when and where your student is to report for testing. Counties and schools have several options for testing that will ensure all students can take their tests safely. Talk to your student's school to determine the best solution for ensuring your student can take the test.

*For additional information regarding the spring 2023 statewide assessments, please contact your student's school.*