North Carolina READY End-of-Grade Assessments: English Language Arts/Reading, Mathematics, and Science

June 17, 2014

This brief is available on the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) Accountability website, www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/testing.

This publication and the information contained within must not be used for personal or financial gain. North Carolina school system/school officials and teachers, parents, and students may download and duplicate this publication for instructional and educational purposes only. Others may not duplicate this publication without prior written permission from the NCDPI Division of Accountability Services/North Carolina Testing Program.

North Carolina End-of-Grade Assessments
The North Carolina READY End-of-Grade Assessments (EOG) are curriculum-based achievement tests in the areas of English Language Arts/Reading and Mathematics at grades 3–8 and Science at grades 5 and 8. The English Language Arts/Reading and Mathematics assessments are aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), while the Science assessments are aligned to the North Carolina Essential Standards.

Students at grades 3–8 take EOG assessments in English Language Arts/Reading, Mathematics, and Science during the last 10 days of the school year.

The EOG assessments of English Language Arts/Reading and Mathematics are administered in paper-and-pencil format only. However, the EOG Science assessments can be administered either in an online or paper-and-pencil format. Districts may elect to administer one EOG in one day or administer two EOGs in one day. If the district elects to administer one EOG in one day, the testing of English Language Arts/Reading and Mathematics must occur on consecutive school days. The administrations of the English Language Arts/Reading and Mathematics assessments do not have to occur during the same week and/or on a consecutive school day with the end-of-grade Science assessment at grades 5 and 8.

The estimated test administration time is the time that the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction estimates it will take for nearly all students to complete the assessment. The estimated time allotted for the EOG English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science assessments is 180 minutes. However, students who need more than the estimated time to complete the test may be allowed an additional 60 minutes to work. As long as students are engaged and working and the maximum time of four hours has not been reached, they must be given time to complete the assessments.

The EOG assessments contain a small portion of experimental (field test) items, which do not count toward or against a student’s score. These items are used for multiple purposes, including, but not limited to, linking between curriculum cycles, examining across grade performance, and examining items for inclusion on future operational assessments. These items are indistinguishable from operational items and should not interfere with the students’ test-taking experience.
English Language Arts/Reading
The EOG English Language Arts/Reading assessments at grades 3–8 are multiple-choice tests. These assessments are available only in paper-and-pencil format. Students read authentic selections and then answer questions related to the selections. The reading selections are comprised of literary and informational selections based on the Common Core State Standards. Knowledge of vocabulary is assessed indirectly through application and understanding of terms within the context of the selection and questions. The EOG assessments of English Language Arts/Reading at grades 3–5 contain 52 total test items. The assessments at grade 6–8 contain 56 total test items.

Mathematics
The EOG Mathematics assessments at grades 3 and 4 are multiple-choice tests, while the assessments at grades 5–8 include multiple-choice and gridded-response questions. Gridded-response test items require students to write a numerical answer in the boxes provided on their answer sheet and then bubble the circles that match what they have printed in the boxes. The EOG Mathematics assessments are available only in paper-and-pencil format. The Mathematics assessments in grades 3–8 consist of two parts: calculator inactive and calculator active. Students are not allowed to use calculators during the calculator inactive part of the test; students are allowed to use calculators during the calculator active part of the assessment. The minimum calculator required for grades 3–5 is a four-function calculator with memory key. The minimum calculator required for grades 6–8 is any four-function calculator with a square root function, $y^x$, $\pi$ (pi), and algebraic logic. Graph paper (NCDPI issued/approved) and blank paper are provided during the testing session. The EOG Mathematics assessments at grades 3 and 4 contain 54 total items (27 calculator inactive, 27 calculator active items). At grade 5, there are 54 total items (19 multiple-choice and 8 gridded-response that are calculator inactive, 27 multiple-choice that are calculator active.) The grades 6–8 assessments include 60 total items (7 multiple-choice and 11 gridded-response that are calculator inactive, 42 multiple-choice that are calculator active).

Science
The EOG Science assessments at grades 5 and 8 are multiple-choice tests. Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) have the option of administering the EOG Science assessments in either paper-and-pencil or online format; however, online testing is strongly encouraged. The Essential Standards for Science at grades 5 and 8 include content from each of the three branches of science: Life (L), Earth (E), and Physical (P). The unifying concepts for Grades 5 and 8 include:
- Forces and Motion
- Matter, Properties, and Change
- Energy: Conservation and Transfer
- Earth Systems, Structures, and Processes
- Earth History
- Structures and Functions of Living Organisms
- Ecosystems
- Evolution and Genetics and
- Molecular Biology

The EOG Science assessments at grades 5 and 8 both contain 75 test items.

Online Assessments
For the 2013–14 school year, the EOG Science assessment is the only EOG assessment offered through an online format. Online assessments are presented through a web browser and contain technology enhanced items. All test questions are formatted specifically for online presentation and presented on the screen one test item at a time. Audio buttons are available for students with documented accommodations of Computer Reads Test Aloud–Student Controlled. Schools must ensure every student participating in an online assessment has completed the Online Assessment Tutorial for the associated assessment at least one time at the school before test day.
Online Assessment Tutorial
The Online Assessment Tutorial is not an assessment; it allows the student to practice navigating through the testing platform and to respond to sample test items. Schools may use one of two Online Assessment Tutorial options with students:

- Schools may play a video that demonstrates how to use the available tools, how to navigate the system, how to respond to each item type, and how to use the end-of-test review page. Immediately following the video, students must complete a self-paced interactive set of online sample items for the appropriate assessment offered in the same environment as the assessment. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) strongly recommends schools show the appropriate video to groups of students instead of allowing each student to stream the video to each computer or tablet simultaneously.

Schools may use a standard script developed by the NCDPI that gives guidance for using the available tools, navigating the system, responding to each item type, and using the end-of-test review page while students complete the tutorial items.

Released Test Form
The online versions of the EOG released forms are available in pdf format at http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/testing/releasedforms. Schools can access the released forms in the online interactive format through the NCTest Secure Web Browser.

In compliance with federal laws, NC Public Schools administers all state-operated educational programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination because of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, age, military service, disability, or gender, except where exemption is appropriate and allowed by law. Inquiries or complaints should be directed to: Dr. Rebecca Garland, Deputy State Superintendent, Office of the Deputy State Superintendent, 6368 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-6368 Telephone (919) 807-3305; Fax (919) 807-4065.