

Assessment Brief



Public Schools of North Carolina • State Board of Education • North Carolina Department of Public Instruction • Mark Johnson, State Superintendent

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

August 15, 2017

This brief is available on the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) Accountability Services Division web site, 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, 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 (EOG) Assessments are curriculum-based achievement tests in the areas of English Language Arts (ELA)/Reading and Mathematics at grades 3–8 and Science at grades 5 and 8. The ELA/Reading and Mathematics assessments are aligned to the North Carolina *Standard Course of Study* (NCSCS), while the Science assessments are aligned to the North Carolina *Essential Standards*. Students take the EOG assessments during the last 10 days of the school year.

For the 2017–18 school year, all EOGs are available in paper-and-pencil and online formats. However, the NCDPI encourages districts/schools to continue to move toward online assessments as much as their local technical infrastructure will allow.

Online administrations of the Grade 8 Science EOG are required through NCTest. If local education agencies (LEAs) or charter schools do not have the technology capability to support administering the aforementioned online assessment to students, a letter indicating the reason(s) for the hardship can be submitted to the Director of Accountability Services.

The estimated test administration time allotted for each EOG 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 240 minutes 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.

Quick Facts about EOG ELA/Reading

- The EOG ELA/Reading assessments are administered at grades 3–8.
- All test questions are multiple-choice.
- 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 NCSCS

- Knowledge of vocabulary is assessed indirectly through application and understanding of terms within the context of the selection and questions.
- The assessments at grades 3–5 contain 52 total test items.
- The assessments at grade 6–8 contain 56 total test items.

Quick Facts about EOG Mathematics

- The EOG Mathematics assessments at grades 3 and 4 consist of multiple-choice questions.
- The EOG Mathematics assessments at grades 5–8 include multiple-choice and gridded response questions. Gridded response items require students to write and fill in numerical answers on their answer sheets rather than to select answers from several choices. For online testing, students type a numerical answer into a text box. All gridded response/numerical questions answer appear in the calculator inactive portion.
- 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 test.
- The 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/numerical entry 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/numerical entry that are calculator inactive, 42 multiple-choice that are calculator active).

Quick Facts about EOG Science

- The EOG Science assessments at grades 5 and 8 are multiple-choice tests.
- The *Essential Standards* for Science at grades 5 and 8 include content from each of the three branches of science: Life, Earth, and Physical. 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

Online assessments are presented through a secure platform. All test items are formatted specifically for online presentation and presented on the screen one test item at a time. Online assessments are available to all students in regular or large font and in alternate background colors; however, the NCDPI recommends these options be considered only for students who routinely use similar tools in the classroom.

Online Assessment Tutorial

Online Assessment Tutorials are available for all North Carolina-developed online tests through the NCTest Chrome App, NCTest Secure Browser, or NCTest iPad App with required security measures. Schools must

ensure every student participating in online assessments has completed the appropriate Online Assessment Tutorial for the associated assessment(s) at least one time per year at the school. Students should not complete the tutorial on the day of the test administration. Note: Students testing online in grade 3 should complete the tutorial twice; once at the beginning of the year (BOG3 tutorial) and once before the end-of-year administration of the EOG (grades 3–4 tutorial). Additionally, students participating in the online NC Check-Ins must complete the appropriate Online Assessment Tutorial one time at the school before the administration of NC Check-In 1. Online NC Check-In students are not required to repeat the tutorial for end of year EOG online testing.

The Online Assessment Tutorials are not assessments; they allow users to practice navigating through the testing platform and to respond to sample test items. During an Online Assessment Tutorial, students can become familiar with tools, navigation, item tracking/flagging/response features, interactive items, and other test interface features.

For best results, students should complete the Online Assessment Tutorial using computers or tablets they will use during the actual online assessment. Completing the Online Assessment Tutorial also provides a minimal test of system configurations.

Schools may use one of two Online Assessment Tutorial options with students. (1) 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 venue as the assessment. The NCDPI strongly recommends schools show the appropriate video to groups of students rather than allowing students to stream the video to each computer or tablet individually. (2) Schools may alternately 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. The standard scripts are available on the TNN page in NC Education. Schools should review both options before the tutorial sessions to determine the best option for students.

In compliance with federal law, the NC Department of Public Instruction 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 regarding discrimination issues should be directed to: *Maria Pitre-Martin, Ph.D., Deputy State Superintendent, 6307 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-6307, Telephone (919) 807-3759; Fax (919) 807-4065*