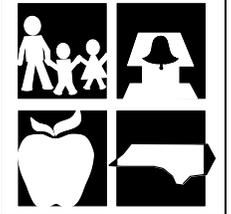


Assessment Brief



Public Schools of North Carolina • State Board of Education • William Cobey, Chairman • North Carolina Department of Public Instruction • June St. Clair Atkinson Ed.D., State Superintendent

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

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

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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 2015–16 school year, all EOGs are available in paper-and-pencil format. However, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) encourages districts/schools to continue to move toward online assessments as much as their local technical infrastructure will allow. As such, the following EOGs are also available online:

- Grade 7 ELA/Reading and Mathematics
- Grade 8 ELA/Reading and Mathematics
- Grade 5 Science
- Grade 8 Science (required online administration)

Online administrations of the Grade 8 Science EOG are required. However, 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 North Carolina *Standard Course of Study*.
- 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 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 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 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).

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. 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 user to practice navigating through the testing platform and to respond to sample test items. During the Online Assessment Tutorial, students have the opportunity to become familiar with tools, navigation, item tracking/flagging/response features, interactive items, and other test interface features.

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 environment as the assessment. The 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. (2) 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. Schools should review both options before the tutorial sessions to determine the best option for students.

The online Assessment Tutorial is available through the NCTest Chrome App or NCTest tablet apps with required security measures. The online released test forms (www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/testing/releasedforms) may provide an opportunity for additional practice at school or at home.

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