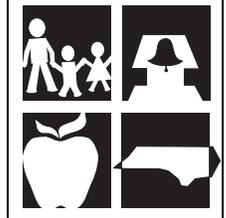


# Assessment Brief



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

## North Carolina End-of-Grade Tests

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### North Carolina End-of-Grade Tests

The North Carolina End-of-Grade Tests are curriculum-based multiple-choice achievement tests at grades 3–8 in the areas of reading and mathematics and grades 5 and 8 in the area of science. These tests are specifically aligned to the North Carolina *Standard Course of Study* and include a variety of strategies to measure the achievement of North Carolina students.

The end-of-grade assessments are given during the last three weeks of the school year. All students at the same grade level within a school are administered the appropriate end-of-grade test at the same time on the same day. Afternoon administrations of the end-of-grade tests are prohibited except for students who receive certain testing accommodations.

Students at different grade levels cannot be administered end-of-grade tests in the same classroom. Testing grade levels in two subjects (i.e., reading comprehension and mathematics, reading comprehension and science, or mathematics and science) on one day is also prohibited.

The administration of the reading comprehension and mathematics end-of-grade tests must occur on consecutive days. The administration of the end-of-grade science test at grades 5 and 8 does not have to occur during the same week and/or on a consecutive day with the reading comprehension and mathematics end-of-grade tests. The science test at grades 5 and 8 may be administered during a different week of the three-week end-of-grade testing window.

The reading comprehension test at grades 3–8 is timed. However, the mathematics tests at grade 3–8 and the science test at grades 5 and 8 are not timed. Students are allowed ample opportunity to complete the

mathematics and science tests. As long as students are engaged and working, they must be allowed time to complete the mathematics and science tests. If students need additional time beyond the time estimated to complete the tests, the test administrator follows local procedures for providing additional time to these students.

### Reading Comprehension at Grades 3–8

For the 2006–07 school year, test items on the end-of-grade reading comprehension test at grades 3–8 measure the 1999 *North Carolina English Language Arts Standard Course of Study*. Reading and knowledge of vocabulary are assessed by having students read selections and then answer questions related to the selections. The selections on the test are reading materials chosen to reflect the variety of actual reading done by students in and out of the classroom.

Eight selections are included on each test at grades 3–5, and nine selections are included on each test at grades 6–8. Selections include both literary (e.g., fiction, poetry, drama) and informational texts that include content areas (e.g., art, science, mathematics, social studies) and consumer/practical selections (e.g., pamphlets, reviews).

Four types of items, organized into categories, are on the reading test. The categories include cognition, interpretation, critical stance, and connections. Cognition requires the reader to apply strategies, such as using context clues to determine meaning, summarizing to include main points, and identifying the purpose of text features. Interpretation requires the reader to make inferences and generalizations. Readers may be asked to

clarify, to explain the significance of, to extend, and/or to adapt ideas/concepts. Critical stance requires the reader to apply processes such as comparing/contrasting and understanding the impact of literary elements. Connections require the reader to connect knowledge from the selection with other information and experiences beyond or outside the selection.

The reading comprehension test must be administered on one day. The administration time and number of items for the end-of-grade reading comprehension test are found in the following chart:

Grades	Items	Minutes
3–5	50	115
6–8	56	115

This is the last year the reading comprehension test that measures the 1999 *North Carolina English Language Arts Standard Course of Study* will be administered.

### Mathematics

The North Carolina End-of-Grade Mathematics Test measures the goals and objectives in the 2003 *North Carolina Mathematics Standard Course of Study*. The competency goals and objectives of the 2003 mathematics curriculum adopted by the North Carolina State Board of Education for each grade are organized into five strands or goals: (1) number and operations, (2) measurement, (3) geometry, (4) data analysis and probability, and (5) algebra. Some of the mathematics items on the test are field test items. Field test items do not count toward or against the student’s score.

#### Mathematics at Grades 3–7

The mathematics end-of-grade test at grades 3–7 may be administered on one or two days. The test consists of two parts: calculator active and calculator inactive. The calculator active part of the test must be administered before the calculator inactive part of the test, regardless of whether or not the school schedules a one-day or two-day administration for the test.

Students are allowed to use calculators for the calculator active part of the test (66% of the test). The minimum (“at least”) calculator requirement for grades 3–5 is a four-function calculator with memory key. The minimum (“at least”) calculator requirement for grades 6–7 is any four-function calculator with a square root function,  $y^x$ ,  $\pi(pi)$ , and algebraic logic. Additional features (e.g., graphing features) that are not restricted are allowed but are not required. Students are not allowed to use calculators for the calculator inactive part of the test (34% of the test).

The administration time and number of items for the end-of-grade mathematics test at grades 3–7 are found in the following chart:

Grades 3–7	Items	Minutes
Calculator Active	54	135
Calculator Inactive	28	60

#### Mathematics at Grade 8

For grade 8, the mathematics test must be administered on one day. Students use calculators for the entire test administration. The minimum (“at least”) calculator requirement at grade 8 is any four-function calculator with a square root function,  $y^x$ ,  $\pi(pi)$ , and algebraic logic. Additional features (e.g., graphing features) that are not restricted are allowed but are not required.

The administration time and number of items for the end-of-grade mathematics test at grade 8 are found in the following chart:

Grade 8	Items	Minutes
All Calculator Active	80	150

### Science

The North Carolina End-of-Grade Science test at grades 5 and 8 is required to meet the federal *No Child Left Behind Act* of 2001. The science test assesses the 2004 *North Carolina Standard Course of Study*. The science test requires students to demonstrate knowledge of important principles and concepts, understand and interpret laboratory activities, and relate scientific information to everyday situations.

The end-of-grade science test must be administered on one day. All students must have access to calculators during the administration of the test. The minimum (“at least”) calculator requirement at grade 5 is a four-function calculator with memory key; the minimum (“at least”) calculator requirement at grade 8 is any four-function calculator with a square root function,  $y^x$ ,  $\pi(pi)$ , and algebraic logic. Additional features (e.g., graphing features) that are not restricted are allowed but are not required. Students at grade 8 will also use periodic tables during the administration of the test.

The administration time and number of items for the end-of-grade science test at grades 5 and 8 are found in the following chart:

Grades	Items	Minutes
5 and 8	92	130

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Dr. Elsie C. Leak,  
Associate Superintendent  
Office of Curriculum and School Reform Services  
6307 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-6307  
Telephone (919) 807-3761; Fax (919) 807-3767