



New York State Testing Program

Grades 3-5

Bell Top Elementary School

February 3, 2010



The New York State Testing Program



- The New York State Board of Regents has set high learning standards for all students.
- **(NCLB - Proficiency for ALL students by 2014)**
- In classrooms across the State, teachers are providing instruction aligned to these standards.
- Teachers are also routinely assessing student progress toward meeting these standards.

The New York State Testing Program

- **PURPOSE:** To provide schools, teachers, and parents with an assessment of student achievement, New York State has developed the New York State Testing Program.



Why is my child being tested?

- The New York State tests are designed to measure how well students have mastered necessary skills and to monitor the effectiveness of instructional programs.
- The testing helps assess both student achievement and the progress of our schools.

The purpose of the tests is to:

- measure a student's knowledge and overall achievement
- measure a student's mastery of specific skills
- provide information to schools that can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of instructional programs
- monitor the performance of schools and school districts for the purpose of accountability to the public

What is the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act?

- NCLB is a federal law that requires all students in every public school and district to meet the State English Language Arts and Mathematics Learning Standards.
- The goal of the act is to improve the quality of education nationally by increasing accountability for states, school districts, and schools.

What is the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act?

- Under this legislation, all states that receive federal funding are required to test students in Grades 3 through 8—including students with disabilities—in English language arts and mathematics in order to measure yearly progress.
- The information gathered from the results of the tests will be used to determine whether schools and districts are making adequate yearly progress in achieving State standards.

What kinds of responses are students asked to provide on these assessments?

- The tests require students to show basic skills in English language arts and mathematics and to apply the knowledge and skills they have learned.
- In some cases, students select the correct response from among four choices. At other times, students are required to write out an answer.

ASSESSMENTS

- For the **English Language Arts Test**, students are tested on their reading, listening, and writing abilities by reading and listening to passages and answering questions based on those passages.
- For the **Mathematics Test**, students solve problems and demonstrate an understanding of basic concepts and procedures. They must often support their answers by showing the steps they used to solve problems and by explaining the mathematics processes and concepts involved.

When are the tests given and how long do they take?

- Approximate testing periods are from **one and a half to three hours** over the course of two to three days, depending on the grade.

– ELA:

- Grade 3: 4-26-10 and 4-27-10
- Grade 4: 4-26-10, 4-27-10 and 4-28-10
- Grade 5: 4-27-10 and 4-28-10

– Math:

- Grade 3: 5-5-10 and 5-6-10
- Grade 4: 5-5-10, 5-6-10, and 5-7-10
- Grade 5: 5-6-10 and 5-7-10





ASSESSMENTS



- **Who will score the tests?**
 - Teacher-scorers receive thorough training and are monitored for consistency in their scoring and understanding of the scoring guides.
- **What will be included in the score reports?**
 - This information is shown in two graphs. The first graph shows your child's overall performance on the tests based on a performance-level range between 1 and 4. Each level is clearly described in the score report. The second graph shows the Standards Performance Index (SPI) score. This score indicates your child's relative strengths and weaknesses in the subject areas tested compared to the New York State Learning Standards.

ASSESSMENTS

- **Testing accommodations are provided based on individual needs.**
- **There are approved accommodations for limited-English-proficient (LEP) students on most New York State tests.**

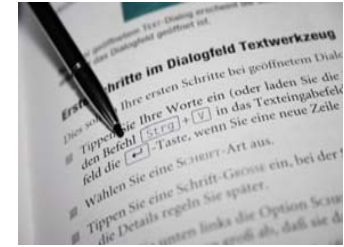


Sample English Language Arts Questions

- **Grade 3 - Multiple Choice**
- The student reads a story about a chipmunk who notices that his animal friends are wearing their pants legs folded up. He asks each animal why but no one is sure of the reason for the new style. Then he asks Bear who says he folded them up to keep his pants from getting wet when he crossed the river.
- The student then chooses the most appropriate response to the following question.
 - According to the story, which animal started the new style?
 - **A** Bear
 - **B** Beaver
 - **C** Rabbit
 - **D** Squirrel



Editing Task



- Here is a paragraph a student wrote. The paragraph has some mistakes in capital letters and punctuation. Some sentences may have no mistakes. There are no mistakes in spelling. Read the paragraph and find the mistakes. Draw a line through each mistake in the paragraph. Then write the correction above it.

Winter is a fun season. It snows a lot where i live. I like to play in the snow. My Brother likes to play in the snow, too. We make snowballs and snow houses. when it gets dark, we go inside, but we know we can go out again the next day?

Grade 5 - Editing Task

Here is a report a student wrote. There are some mistakes in the paragraph. Some sentences may have more than one mistake, and other sentences may contain no mistakes at all. There are no mistakes in spelling. Read the paragraph and find the mistakes. Draw a line through each mistake in the paragraph. Then write the correction above it.

Last weekend, my family and I went to the new aquarium downtown. It is one of the most largest aquariums in the state. When we first arrive at the aquarium, we saw real otters sharks, and penguins. Then we went to the aquarium's Theater and saw a show called "The amazing Oceans." I learned about different oceans across the world and about interesting creatures that lives in those oceans. It was so much fun to visit the aquarium. I can't wait to go back!

The Mathematics Test

- On the Mathematics Test, students must:
 - understand what each question is asking
 - know and apply facts and definitions
 - select, apply, and modify procedures
 - read and interpret graphs and tables
 - recognize, interpret, and apply the signs, symbols, and
 - terms used to represent concepts



Sample Mathematics Questions

- **Grade 3 - Multiple Choice**

Sam and Jenna have been saving pennies. Sam has 232 pennies, and Jenna has 151 pennies. How many more pennies does Sam have than Jenna?

- **A 71**
- **B 81**
- **C 121**
- **D 181**



How can I find out if my child's school is meeting the New York State Learning Standards?

- Schools and school districts receive report cards—just as students do. The New York State School and District “Report Cards” are annual reports that provide information on how well schools and school districts are doing in helping students meet the learning standards. Copies of the New York State Report Card for all public schools and school districts can be found at <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov>.

PRACTICE TESTS

- <http://www.edinformatics.com/testing/ny.htm>
- New Standards
- Race to the Top - Impact
- QUESTIONS???

