

2017-18 TNReady Grades 3 and 4 Assessment

Grades 3 and 4 Assessment 2017-18 Brochure

May 2017

Assessment Redesign

Patterns of student performance in elementary school demonstrate clear areas for improvement and underscore the need to prioritize early intervention to ensure all 600,000 students enrolled in grades K–5 are on a path to success.

Over the past several years, we have seen steady gains in math performance in grades 3–5; however, English language arts performance has remained stagnant or declined.

Of the almost 6,000 Tennessee students rated below basic in third grade English language arts, less than three percent reach proficiency by fifth grade. Those students who are not reading proficiently by third grade are four times less likely than their peers to graduate from high school by age 19. For many students, early intervention is a key element of later success.

In an effort to move our students towards the goal set forth by the Tennessee Department of Education's strategic plan, *Tennessee Succeeds*, and to more closely align our state assessment in grades 3 and 4 with classroom instruction, the department is pleased to announce a redesign of the TNReady assessment for grades 3 and 4 beginning in 2017-18.

For additional information please read, *Setting the Foundation: A Report on Elementary Grades Reading in Tennessee*.

"TNReady is intentionally designed to measure what students know and can do. Results from the assessments will allow educators to best support each unique student in their academic journey."
—Commissioner McQueen



About the Grades 3 and 4 assessment

- * ELA Design
- * Writing Rubrics
- * Math Design
- * Science and Social Studies
- * Resources and Frequently Asked Questions

English Language Arts (ELA)

The format of the ELA test is designed to assess in an integrated manner. All items (except for fluency) are connected to passages (both literary and informational). Students' foundational literacy skills will also be assessed using words taken directly from the given passages. The integrated format will assess students based upon questions derived from both literature passages and informational text in order to determine their mastery of the standards in the following areas:

Comprehension: Students' comprehension will be assessed through items based upon both literary passages and informational text.

Foundational Literacy Skills: Students' phonics and word recognition skills will be assessed using words taken directly from the given passages.

Language (Conventions/Grammar/Spelling): Students' command of the conventions of standard English and vocabulary acquisition will be assessed through words, phrases, and sentences found within the given passages.

Editing: Students' ability to apply their command of the conventions of standard English will be assessed through tasks involving the identification of errors in both literary and informational text.

Listening: Students will be assessed on their listening comprehension skills through a series of sentences and short passages.

Foundational Literacy Fluency: Students' reading fluency and comprehension will be assessed through the use of *yes* or *no* responses to independently read sentences containing grade appropriate vocabulary.

Writing:

Grade 3: Students will be asked to write a cohesive paragraph drawing from personal experiences and evidence from the passage. The prompt is aligned to writing standard 8 (3.W.RBPK.8). Each prompt will specify a specific mode of writing.

Grade 4: Students will be asked to write several cohesive paragraphs in response to a prompt. The prompt is unique to each passage or passage set. The prompt is aligned to one of three writing standards: 4.W.TTP.1, 4.W.TTP.2, or 4.W.TTP.3, and its directions explicitly indicate which mode students should respond in (e.g., opinion, informative, or narrative).



Beyond Oral Reading Fluency

As Price, Meisinger, Louwerse, and D'Mello explain in their article "Silent Reading Fluency Using Underlining: Evidence for an Alternative Method of Assessment" (2012), traditionally there has been an over-emphasis on oral reading fluency (ORF) in the classroom. ORF is typically assessed in situations where students "read aloud from a passage while their reading errors (i.e., miscues) and reading rate are recorded" (Price et al., 2012, p. 2). This type of assessment method does not connect decoding skills to a measure of comprehension; it requires substantial one-on-one time per student; and it does not address the "need to pay closer consideration to oral reading's often ignored counterpart, silent reading" (Price et al., 2012, p. 2).



Research Foundation for ELA Fluency Item

In the research and policy brief, *Setting the Foundation: A Report on Elementary Grades Reading in Tennessee*, the Tennessee Department of Education laid out a plan to reach the state's "Read to be Ready" goal of having 75 percent of its third-grade students proficient in reading by 2025. Part of the plan is to "support deeper literacy instruction to ensure that students learn decoding within the context of broader comprehension."

This instructional shift encourages methods that will help students connect skill-based competencies (e.g., fluency) to knowledge-based competencies (e.g., comprehension). The grade 2 assessment includes measures of fluency that connect students' basic decoding skills with their comprehension at the sentence level. The redesign of the grades 3 and 4 assessment reflects the addition of fluency items as well.

Fluency Item Alignment and Design

The grades 3 and 4 assessment will include one item aligned to Tennessee standard *FL.F.5 "read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension."*

For the fluency item, the teacher (or proctor) will read aloud a simple set of directions to the class: *Here are 20 sentences. Read each sentence and ask yourself: Is this sentence true? Mark YES or NO to answer the question for each sentence. Do not start until I say "Go." Do as many as you can before I say Stop."*

Students will have a set of twenty sentences in their test booklets. Each sentence includes words that are at or below grade level. Each sentence is structured to present a statement that is easily recognizable as true or not true, as determined by grade-level content experts and verified through a rigorous content and bias review process, which includes Tennessee educators. Students will have a set amount of time to read the sentences and mark YES or NO as directed. The number of sentences that students answer correctly will be translated into a 0–5 score. The use of the 0–5 scale ensures that the fluency score has the appropriate weight in the calculation of a student's overall English language arts (ELA) score. Read more information about the research behind these fluency items [here](#).

- A fish uses arms to swim.
- A flower can grow in a garden.
- A backpack can be used to carry elephants.
- Trains and planes can take you to faraway places.

Samples of ELA Item Types

3rd Grade

What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. The students volunteered their time to make the garden a success.
- B. The students enjoyed the vegetables they grew in the garden.
- C. The students learned many valuable lessons while working on the school garden.
- D. The students' hard work made their principal and teachers proud.

Based on the suffix **-er**, what does the word gardener mean?

- A. A person who works in a garden
- B. The act of planting seeds
- C. The plants that grow in a garden
- D. The place where plants grow

4th Grade

Read this sentence from paragraph 4

After weeks of training and preparation the day of the race had finally arrived.

Based on the story, what is the meaning of the word preparation?

- A. Planning for an event
- B. Gathering things together
- C. Running in a race
- D. Waiting for a special day

Which word from the passage makes a new word when the suffix **-less** is added?

- A. come
- B. book
- C. tire
- D. open

ELA Test Structure

The test structure for English language arts reflects both the number of operational assessment items and the number of field test assessment items.

Grade 3

For scheduling purposes, subparts can be combined.

Subpart 1	Subpart 2	Subpart 3	Subpart 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80 minutes • 2 passage sets* • 7-12 passage based items per set • 1 writing prompt per set 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 43 minutes • 1 passage set* • 10-15 items per passage set • 3 listening sets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 43 minutes • 1 passage set* • 10-15 items per passage set • 3 listening sets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 minutes • 1 passage set* • 10-15 items per passage set • 2 fluency sets • 15-20 editing sentences

For scheduling purposes, subparts can be combined.

Grade 4

For scheduling purposes, subparts can be combined.

Subpart 1	Subpart 2	Subpart 3	Subpart 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80 minutes • 2 listening sets • 4-7 editing items • 1 passage sets* • 3-5 passage based items per set • 1 writing prompt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45 minutes • 2 listening sets • 1 fluency set • 4-7 editing items • 1 passage set* • 10-15 items per passage set 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45 minutes • 2 listening sets • 1 fluency set • 4-7 editing items • 1 passage set* • 10-15 items per passage set 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 52 minutes • 2 passage sets* • 10-15 items per passage set

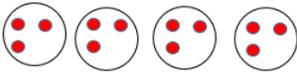
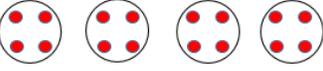
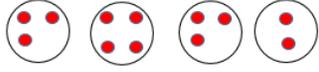
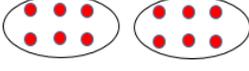
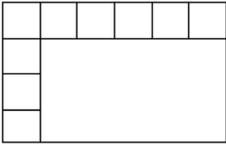
For scheduling purposes, subparts can be combined.

Writing

In order to assess Tennessee students' progression towards mastery of the writing standards, the grades 3 and 4 assessment has been redesigned to scaffold the writing process in a developmentally appropriate manner. On the grade 2 assessment, students are asked to write **3-4 sentences** per prompt (aligned to standard W8); in grade 3, students will be asked to write a cohesive **paragraph** per prompt (aligned to standard W8); in grade 4, students will be asked to write **several cohesive paragraphs** per prompt (aligned to standards W1, W2 or W3). In each grade, student responses should be based upon information from the passage. For additional information on the writing rubrics in grades 2-4, click [here](#).

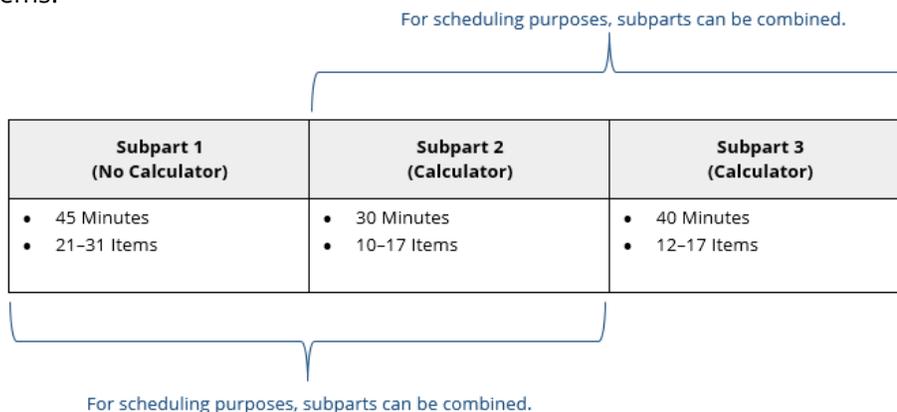
Mathematics

The mathematics test will consist of approximately 70 percent of the assessment points coming from major work of the grade and approximately 30 percent of the points coming from supporting work. Student mastery of conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, and application of the grade-level standards will be assessed. Further, students will be assessed on their ability to connect topics across the grade-level domains.

Samples of Math Item Types																	
3rd Grade	4th Grade																
<p>Choose the two models that represent the equation $12 \div 4 = 3$.</p> <p>A. </p> <p>B. </p> <p>C. </p> <p>D. </p> <p>E. </p>	<p>Samantha bought stickers.</p> <p>She bought 6 packs of stickers. Each pack has 12 stickers. She got 8 more stickers from a friend.</p> <p>How many stickers does Samantha have in all?</p> <p>A. 26 B. 64 C. 72 D. 80</p>																
<p>Sam is covering his desk with square tiles. He has already completed the first row and the first column as shown.</p>  <p>How many tiles will Sam use to cover his whole desk?</p>	<p>Match each fraction on the left with its equivalent fraction on the top row.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>$\frac{3}{4}$</td> <td>$\frac{2}{3}$</td> <td>$\frac{2}{6}$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>$\frac{4}{12}$</td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>$\frac{6}{8}$</td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>$\frac{4}{6}$</td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> </tr> </table>		$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{2}{6}$	$\frac{4}{12}$	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	$\frac{6}{8}$	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	$\frac{4}{6}$	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Mathematics Test Structure

As in the past, each year the state assessment includes both operational and field test items. The testing structure outlined below reflects both the number of operational assessment items and the number of field test items.



Science and Social Studies

Redesign

In order to allow for a more robust English language arts assessment in grades 3 and 4 without increasing the overall testing times, the TNReady assessments in science and social studies at these grade levels have been reduced.

Despite the reduction in the time of the assessment, the expectation for instruction of science and social studies standards in grades 3 and 4 have not changed. In order to prepare students for content in grades 5-8 and high school, it is necessary to continue rich, engaging science and social studies instruction in grades 3 and 4.

As a result of the reduction of the number of items on the assessment, student mastery will be reported in one of two performance levels. Reporting categories for both science and social studies are indicated below.



Science

Grade	Time	Test Design	Subscore Categories
3	50 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 items • Multiple choice and multiple select 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life Science • Earth Science • Physical Science
4	50 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 items • Multiple choice and multiple select 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life Science • Earth Science • Physical Science

Social Studies

Grade	Time	Test Design	Subscore Categories
3	50 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 items • Multiple choice and multiple select 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Geography: Physical • World Geography: Cultures • World Geography: Economics
4	50 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 items • Multiple choice and multiple select 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1300s to 1774 • 1775-1810 • 1811-1850

Resources

- TN Academic Standards
 - ELA
 - Math
 - Science
 - Social Studies
- EdTools
- Writing Rubrics
- Assessment Blueprints

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will the grades 3 and 4 assessment be in a consumable books or will students have separate answer documents?

In 2017-18, the grade 3 assessment will be a consumable book in Math and ELA, but will have a separate answer document for science and social studies. The grade 4 assessment will have separate answer documents for each of the four content areas.

2. Will the grades 3 and 4 assessment be online?

In 2017-18, the assessment will be a paper-based assessment.

3. Will students be able to use a calculator on the science assessment in grades 3 and 4?

There are no standards in Grades 3 and 4 that require the use of a calculator. However calculator use is an allowable accommodation for inclusion on an IEP. We recommend that IEP teams carefully weigh this decision as students may find having a calculator more distracting than helpful during the grades 3 and 4 science assessment.

4. Will there be a writing portion on the Grades 3 and 4 social studies assessment?

There is no longer a subpart one, or writing portion on the Grades 3 and 4 social studies assessment. This assessment will include multiple choice and multiple select items only.

Contact Us

For more information about the Grades 3 and 4 assessment:

tnstandards.questions@tn.gov

Visit us on the web at www.tn.gov/education

