

TCAP Science

Grades 3-4 Assessment Overview

Science Assessment Overview

This fact sheet provides information about the science grades 3-4 assessments. The science assessment will assess the Tennessee Academic Standards through measurement of student mastery and will require students to demonstrate a deep conceptual understanding of the three dimensions of science education: disciplinary core ideas, science and engineering practices, and cross-cutting concepts and support the vertical alignment embedded within the standards.

The science TCAP assessments for **grades 3-4** are administered in **one** subpart. Calculators **are not** allowed.

For more information on TCAP assessments, click [here](#).

Test Administration Information

The science assessments for **grades 3 and 4** are administered using a **paper-based test booklet and separate answer document**. All answers for each possible item type will be submitted by students writing in the answer document.

Test Administration Schedule

For a full schedule of all statewide assessments, see the testing administration windows on the department's [website](#).

Within the state testing windows, testing schedules are established **by the district at the school and/or district level**. It is the district's discretion to allow schools to set their own testing schedules, independent of a district testing schedule.

Test Administration Subpart Timing and Structure

The below testing structures for grades 3-4 reflect both the number of operational assessment items and the number of field test assessment items.

Grade	Subpart 1	Calculator Allowed?	Summary
3 rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 minutes • 28-32 items 	No	Total Time: 50 minutes Total Items: 28-32
4 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 minutes • 28-32 items 	No	Total Time: 50 minutes Total Items: 28-32

Performance Levels and Scale Scores

Student performance on Tennessee’s statewide assessments is categorized into four performance levels.

The table below provides information regarding student achievement at each performance level for the TCAP science tests. This information is provided on student reports so that students, parents, and educators may interpret student results in a meaningful way.

Level 1 (Below Expectations)	Level 2 (Approaching Expectations)	Level 3 (Met Expectations)	Level 4 (Exceeded Expectations)
The student did not meet Tennessee’s grade level expectations and has little knowledge of the skills and concepts in the subject.	The student is approaching Tennessee’s grade level expectations and has a partial understanding of the skills and concepts in the subject.	The student met Tennessee’s grade level expectations and has a thorough understanding of the skills and concepts in the subject.	The student met Tennessee’s grade level expectations and understands the most complex skills and concepts in the subject.

Performance level scale score ranges for TCAP science assessments for grades 3-4 are provided in the table below.

Assessment	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Grade 3	200 – 300	300 – 330	330 – 365	365 – 450
Grade 4	200 – 300	300 – 330	330 – 370	370 – 450

Assessment Blueprints

Assessment blueprints are designed to show educators a summary of what will be assessed on each assessment. This resource is designed to help educators as they plan for the upcoming school year. Assessment blueprints can be found [here](#).

Item Types

The TCAP science assessments for grades 3-4 are administered using **Selected Response** item types. These item types are used in multiple ways to elicit responses that demonstrate understanding of the Tennessee Academic Standards for Science.

Selected Response items used for the TCAP science assessments can include:

- *Multiple Choice* – These are items with four answer options, only one of which is correct. Multiple Choice items are worth one point each.
- *Multiple Select* – These are items with more than four answer choices with multiple correct answers. Multiple Select items are worth two points each.

Practice Tests

The department has provided the following practice tools to support educators and students:

- **Paper practice tests:** PDF versions of practice tests are available on the Assessment Development LiveBinder ([here](#)).

Additional Information

Please visit the [department's website](#) for more information about the statewide assessment program.