

TCAP Science

Grades 3-4 Assessment Overview

Science Assessment Overview

This fact sheet provides information about the science grades 3-4 assessments. This assessment will assess the Tennessee Academic Standards for Science 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.

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

The science assessment for **grade 3** is administered using a **consumable test booklet in which students will place all answers**. All answers for each possible item type are submitted by students writing in the test booklet.

The science assessment for **grade 4** is 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.

For more information on TCAP assessments, visit [LiveBinders](#).

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 window, 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 following timing details are applicable to the science assessments for grades 3-4. The item totals refer to both the number of operational assessment items and the number of field test assessment items.

Subpart	Calculator Allowed?	Total Time	Total Items
Subpart 1	No	60 minutes	30 - 31

Assessment Blueprints

Assessment Blueprints describe the content and structure of an assessment. The assessment blueprints for TCAP provide expectations of the possible number of items that may appear on a given TCAP assessment by reporting category and standard(s). The assessment blueprints for TCAP can be found in [LiveBinders](#) by selecting the tab for a given content area.

Item Types

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

Discrete items contain a single question paired with a stimulus or phenomenon. Discrete items can be *Multiple Choice*, *Multiple Select*, *Composite*, or *Technology Enhanced* and will assess more than one dimension of the Tennessee Academic Standards for Science.

Discrete items used for grades 3-4 TCAP science assessments can include:

- *Multiple Choice* – These are items with four answer options and only one correct answer. Multiple Choice items are worth one point each.
- *Multiple Select* – These are items with more than four answer options and multiple correct answers. Multiple Select items are worth two points each and students can earn partial credit.

Additional Information

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

- **[TCAP Portal](#)** hosts all assessment resources used for the TCAP program, including embedded access to TestNav, Schoolnet, and resources from the Assessment Development LiveBinder.
 - **TestNav** is the summative assessment platform utilized for administering TCAP assessments. The TestNav practice resources are accessible on the TCAP Portal through the “Student Assessment Readiness Tab” at the top of the page.
 - There is a button for “TCAP TEI Sampler” that goes to content-and-grade-band-specific samplers for TE items. A TestNav Tutorial is also accessible from this menu.
 - Test Practice is organized by content area and grade. Under each Test Practice resource there is a corresponding “Release” guide that provides a key.
 - **Schoolnet** is a TDOE-provided formative assessment platform for use by teachers and districts. Schoolnet is accessible on the TCAP Portal through the “Schoolnet” tab at the top of the page.
 - Resources on Schoolnet include released items and various formative assessments across all TCAP-assessed contents and grade levels. There are ready-made assessments as well as item banks for users to access and create custom assessments.
 - **[The Assessment Development LiveBinder](#)** houses resources from the TDOE Assessment team. Examples of resources include blueprints, assessment overviews, practice tests, item releases, and practice items.

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