



2022-23

## Five Facts for Parents and Guardians

### Why Do We Test Students in New Mexico?

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Annual summative assessments show whether students across the state are mastering academic standards. Formative and interim assessments given throughout the year tell teachers what concepts individual students are struggling with so they can help them master those specific standards.

Assessing students is required by federal and state law. The Every Student Succeeds Act requires that, at a minimum, all students, including students with disabilities and English learners, be tested in:

- reading and math in Grades 3–8 and once in high school;
- science once in elementary, middle, and high school;
- English proficiency if the student is an English learner.

### What Is the Vision for Student Assessment in New Mexico?

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In early 2019, the PED asked students, parents, teachers, and community members from around the state what they wanted in an assessment system. Based on that feedback, the Student Success Task Force recommended changes to the state assessment system. [Watch a short video](#) about their work and [read a brief summary](#) of their recommendations.

### What Math and Reading Test Will Students Take?

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In Grades 3–8, students will take New Mexico’s Measures of Student Success and Achievement. In Grade 11, students will take the SAT School Day. Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities will take the Dynamic Learning Maps test instead of NM-MSSA, NM-ASR, and the SAT.

### What Other Tests Will Students Be Required to Take?

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- Students in Grades 5, 8, and 11 will take the New Mexico Assessment of Science Readiness.
- English learners will take ACCESS for ELLs to measure English proficiency.
- English learners with the most significant cognitive disabilities will take Alt-ACCESS instead of ACCESS.
- Students in Grades K-2 will take the Istation early reading test.
- All kindergarten students will be observed once per year by their instructor utilizing the Kindergarten Observation Tool.
- All first grade students must be screened for dyslexia.

Visit the [Assessment Bureau](#) website to download fact sheets for these tests.

### Additional Resources

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[Balanced Assessment System Quick Infographic](#)

[Balanced Assessment System Brochure](#)

For additional information, visit the [Assessment Bureau](#) website or email [ped.assessment@state.nm.us](mailto:ped.assessment@state.nm.us).