



5 Facts for Parents

Why Do We Test Students in New Mexico?

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 Students Succeeds Act (ESSA) 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?

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. You can [watch a short video](#) about their work and [read a brief summary](#) of their recommendations on our website.

What Math and Reading Test will Students Take?

- In grades 3–8, students will take New Mexico's Measures of Student Success and Achievement (NM-MSSA). 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?

- Students in grades 5, 8, and 11 will take the New Mexico Assessment of Science Readiness (NM-ASR).
- 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.
- The Early Childhood Observation Tool is a tool used by teachers to see what Kindergarten and pre-K students know and can do.
- All first-grade students must be screened for dyslexia.
- Please visit the Assessment web page to download Fact sheets for these tests at: <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/assessment-3/quick-communications/>

Additional Resources

- [Balanced Assessment System Quick Infographic: https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/The-Balanced-Assessment-System-Quick-Infographic.pdf](https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/The-Balanced-Assessment-System-Quick-Infographic.pdf)
- [Balanced Assessment System Brochure: https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/NM_BAS_4-Page-Brochure.pdf](https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/NM_BAS_4-Page-Brochure.pdf)
- For additional information, visit the Assessment Bureau website at: <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/assessment-3/> Email: PED.Assessment@state.nm.us