

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding State Testing

Provided to parents in the SC Public Charter School District

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What tests does the state REQUIRE ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN to take?

- Kindergarten
 - 4K and 5K students take a literacy assessment at the beginning of the school year to measure the child's ability to read.
- 2nd Grade
 - Second grade students are screened for possible gifted and talented identification using the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) and the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS).
- Grades 3-8
 - The Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS) measures a student's proficiency in science and social studies (grades 4-8 only).
 - A new assessment will replace the English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics sections of PASS.
 - Middle school students taking courses for high school credit must also take the EOC (see below).
- High School
 - Students enrolled in Algebra 1/Mathematics for the Technologies 2, English 1, U.S. History, or Biology 1/Applied Biology 2 must participate in the End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP or just EOC). Results of the test count as 20% of the final course grade.
 - 11th grade students take ACT WorkKeys, which measures a student's readiness to enter a career.
 - 11th grade students also take a new assessment that will replace the High School Assessment Program (HSAP). Students are NOT required to pass this assessment to earn a high school diploma.
- Students with Limited English Proficiency: ACCESS for ELLs
 - ACCESS for ELLs (Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners) is used to differentiate instruction and ESOL services based on students' needs.

Are there any exceptions?

Yes. For students who demonstrate a significant cognitive disability and meet certain other criteria, the IEP team may determine that the NCSC (National Center and State Collaborative) assessment should be administered instead of the exams listed above.

Can parents opt-out of state testing?

No. All students enrolled in South Carolina public schools are required to participate in state testing.

How is my school doing?

Parents can view ESEA results and school report cards for their child's current school or a new school they are considering on the state's website (ed.sc.gov). Click "Research Portal" and then "ESEA Waiver" or "Report Cards". Information is available for all public schools in SC for the last several years.

How is my child doing?

Parents will receive a copy of their child's test results, which will be mailed by the school in late summer or early fall.

What if I have more questions?

Parents are encouraged to contact the testing coordinator at their child's school.