

Yazoo City Municipal School District

Three Reasons the State Assessments are Important

- 1. Testing is a part of learning, and lets students “show what they know” and what they can do.**
 - ***Test results show student strengths.*** You will learn what subject areas your student excels in.
 - ***Tests results show student weaknesses.*** You will learn what your student needs to learn.
 - ***Testing each year helps a student become a strong test-taker.*** The more tests students take, the more familiar and comfortable they will feel, and test performance will improve. Performing well under pressure is a skill students will need and will use often as an adult.
 - ***All students take tests.*** We can’t avoid them. People of all ages must sometimes take tests. Annual assessment is a requirement of the Mississippi Department of Education, and the tests fulfill this requirement in grades 3-12.
- 2. All tests, including state assessments, provide information about student learning that help us (teachers and parents) instruct students better and help them succeed.**
 - ***The purpose of a test is for the student to show what he/she has learned.*** Tests help both you and your student’s teachers. A lack of information about a student’s level of knowledge (revealed through testing) hinders academic progress. The information from state assessment results in grades 3-11 will help the teacher and parent focus instruction on subject areas in which the student needs more time to understand and master the content.
 - ***Test results are important indicators of academic progress.*** Tests help educators with determining student grade level placement, designing specialized instruction, setting learning goals and monitoring progress. Test results in grades 3-8 help teachers and parents address student learning needs early in areas in which the student did not meet standards, and focus instruction to build success leading into high school and beyond.
 - ***Students will not “get in trouble” if they do not meet standards.*** Do not be concerned about possible consequences of poor performance. Your student only has to do the best he/she can on testing day. While a student should strive to do his/her personal best on any test, know that there are no negative consequences for scores lower than standard. Learning is a process. Help your student set personal goals and work with your student and his/her teacher to achieve these goals.
 - ***There are many chances to succeed on state assessments before graduation day.*** Tests help younger students practice and build confidence before taking exams as part of their graduation requirements.
- 3. Taking state assessments can provide evidence that students are learning effectively and mastering grade level standards in an independent, online and/or remote learning environment.**
 - ***Student performance data helps administrators identify instructional strengths and weaknesses*** and make quality improvements to the program that will benefit students.
 - ***State assessment data is the primary “measurement” of student learning recognized and used by state educators and legislative officials to make decisions concerning public education.*** State assessment data on student performance is an important indicator of the successes of our students.