



Bureau Chief  
Office of State Assessment

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**TO:** Principals of Public and Nonpublic Elementary- and Intermediate-Level Schools  
Leaders of Charter Elementary- and Intermediate-Level Schools

**FROM:** Barbara M. Wallis *Barbara M. Wallis*

**SUBJECT:** Procedures for Requesting, Shipping, and Storing of Materials for the 2015–16  
Administration of the New York State Elementary- and Intermediate-Level Tests and  
Information on Computer-Based Field Testing for Spring 2016

This memorandum provides information concerning procedures for requesting, shipping, and storing materials for the tests listed below. This memorandum and all information in subsequent e-mailings pertaining to these tests will be available on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/ei/eigen.html>. If you have questions concerning the requesting of test materials, or about any of the other information in this memorandum, please call 518-474-8220 for assistance.

All editions of the following State exams must be requested through the Department's online examination request system:

- Grades 3–8 Common Core English Language Arts Tests
- Grades 3–8 Common Core Mathematics Tests
- Grade 4 Elementary-Level Science Test
- Grade 8 Intermediate-Level Science Test

Directions for using this system are included in this memorandum and in the *Instructions for Submitting Elementary- and Intermediate-Level Examination Requests Online* (DET 902).

Also included in this memorandum is information regarding the New York State stand-alone English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics field tests. This year, for the first time, schools will have the option of administering the stand-alone field tests in either the traditional paper-based format or as computer-based tests. As described below, schools will be asked to indicate which field test format they prefer when entering requests for 2016 operational tests in the online request system.

### COMPUTER-BASED STAND-ALONE FIELD TESTING

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) is planning a gradual approach to computer-based testing (CBT), and in the 2015–16 school year, schools will have the option of administering the stand-alone field tests by computer or paper. All operational assessments for 2016 will be administered on paper. Beginning with the 2016–17 school year, schools will have the option of administering the operational tests as well as the stand-alone field tests by either computer or paper.

This transition to CBT benefits students and educators by enabling faster turnaround of results, more timely release of test questions, release of a larger proportion of the test questions, and fewer stand-alone field tests. NYSED is encouraging schools to participate in computer-based, stand-alone field tests to help ascertain that they have the necessary devices and infrastructure to fully participate in CBT. This opportunity will enable schools to assess their technical readiness and provides administrators, teachers, and students an opportunity to become familiar with CBT in a low-stakes testing environment. **The full memo on opportunities to participate in computer-based testing in Grades 3–8 ELA and Mathematics is available online at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/technology/CBT>.** Also featured on this site are the minimum technical requirements for CBT.

When placing requests for 2015–16 elementary/intermediate-level operational tests, schools will be required to indicate whether they would like to administer the 2016 Grades 3–8 stand-alone ELA and Mathematics field tests either in the traditional paper-based format or as computer-based tests. School participation in computer-based field testing will be voluntary by school.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

All operational tests must be requested through the Department's online examination request system. **Online requests for all elementary- and intermediate-level tests must be submitted by November 6, 2015.** Requests for two or more schools in a district must *not* be combined into one request. Within three business days after your request has been entered, you will be sent a confirmation notice via e-mail indicating the number of exams requested and the address to which they will be shipped. **It is of the utmost importance that you carefully check all e-mailed confirmation notices as soon as they are received to ensure that the correct quantities of materials will be shipped and to determine whether additional materials are needed.**

Administrators who find they need additional test materials for any elementary- or intermediate-level tests may return to the online examination request system to revise or add any supplemental quantities needed up until the window for submitting requests online has ended. Telephone requests will not be accepted.

An updated confirmation notice will be e-mailed to the school. It should be checked immediately to ensure that the materials to be shipped include the additional request. **Please make every effort to make any modifications to initial requests for any tests as soon as possible.**

All schools administering New York State elementary- and intermediate-level tests **must** contract with a Regional Information Center (RIC) or large-city scanning center to obtain answer sheets and scanning services. When ordering tests on the online examination request system, schools must identify the RIC or large-city scanning center with whom they have contracted. Schools will **not** be able to proceed with ordering State tests until this information has been entered. A complete list of RICs and large-city scanning centers is available on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/sirs/ric-big5.html>.

## STUDENTS TO BE TESTED

Except as noted below, all public and charter school students in Grades 3 through 8 must take all State tests administered for their grade level. This includes students who have been retained in these grades. The chronological ages of students with disabilities who are ungraded should be used to determine who must be tested and which grade level tests they must take.

When determining which students will be participating in these tests, be sure to consider also those students who attend programs outside of the school. BOCES and nonpublic schools within New York State providing special education programs for students placed there by public school districts should submit requests to cover the students enrolled in their programs. Public schools should **not** request test

materials for students enrolled in such special education placements but should confer with the special education programs to ensure that they will be requesting the tests that will be needed. The requests for two or more schools in a district must **not** be combined into one request.

- **The Grades 7 and 8 Common Core Mathematics Tests.** The United States Department of Education’s waiver regarding the provisions of the federal law that require states to measure the achievement of standards in mathematics using the same assessments for all students remains in effect for 2015–16. With this waiver, Grade 7 and 8 students who are receiving instruction in Algebra I and who take the Regents Examination in Algebra I (Common Core) are not required to take the New York State Common Core Mathematics Test for the grade in which they are enrolled. School districts are allowed to administer only the Regents Examination in Algebra I (Common Core) to these students, eliminating the need for students accelerated in mathematics to take both tests. The waiver also applies to students in Grades 7 and 8 who receive instruction in Geometry and who take the Regents Examination in Geometry (Common Core).
- **The Grade 8 Intermediate-Level Science Test** should be administered to students in the grade in which they will have received instruction in all the material in the *Intermediate-Level Science Core Curriculum (5–8)*. While this is typically Grade 8, the test may also be administered to students in Grade 7 who will have completed all the material in the *Intermediate-Level Science Core Curriculum (5–8)* and are being considered for placement in an accelerated high school-level science course when they are in Grade 8. The school may not use this assessment to retest any Grade 8 students who participated in this assessment during the previous school year as Grade 7 students. Schools are expected to administer this assessment to those Grade 8 students who did not take this assessment during the previous school year as Grade 7 students, unless such students will be taking a Regents Exam in science at the end of the school year. School principals have the discretion to either require or waive the Grade 8 Intermediate-Level Science Test for those accelerated Grade 8 students who did not take this exam during the previous school year but who will be taking a Regents Exam in science at the end of the school year in which they complete Grade 8. For those accelerated students for whom the school waives the Grade 8 Intermediate-Level Science Test, the student’s achievement in science will be measured by the student’s performance on the Regents Exam in science.
- **English Language Learners.** The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requires that the language arts proficiency of all English Language Learners (as defined in Part 154 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education) be tested annually. All English Language Learners, regardless of grade, must take the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT). Instructions for requesting the NYSESLAT will be e-mailed to schools in late September.
  - Schools are permitted to exempt from the 2016 Grades 3–8 Common Core ELA Tests only those English Language Learners (including those from Puerto Rico) who, on April 1, 2016, will have been attending school in the United States for the first time for less than one year. Recently arrived English Language Learners may be eligible *for one, and only one, exemption* from the administration of the Grades 3–8 Common Core ELA Tests. Subject to this limitation, schools may administer the NYSESLAT in lieu of the Grades 3–8 Common Core ELA Tests, for participation purposes only, to recently arrived English Language Learners who meet the criterion above. All other English Language Learners must participate in the Grades 3–8 Common Core Language Arts Tests, as well as in the NYSESLAT.
  - All English Language Learners are required to participate in the State’s 2016 mathematics and science tests. English Language Learners may take the mathematics and science tests in English or an alternative language, whichever is better for the student. Each of these tests

is provided in Chinese (Traditional), Haitian Creole, and Spanish. The mathematics tests are also provided in Korean and Russian. These tests may also be translated orally into other languages for those English Language Learners whose first language is one for which a written translation is not available from the Department. Schools are permitted to offer English Language Learners specific testing accommodations when taking these tests. These accommodations are detailed in the respective test manuals.

- **Former English Language Learners.** Schools may provide the testing accommodations listed above under the heading “Administering Examinations to English Language Learners” to Former English Language Learners who met the exiting criteria specified in Part 154-2 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education and were exited from English Language Learner status following their participation in one of the two most recent administrations of the NYSESLAT. Such students either achieved an overall level of Commanding on the Spring 2014 NYSESLAT or achieved an overall score of Expanding on the Spring 2015 administration of the NYSESLAT and scored at Level 3 or higher on the New York State Common Core Grades 3–8 ELA Test.
- **Students with Disabilities.** The Committee on Special Education (CSE) must decide for each student, on a case-by-case basis, whether the student will participate in the general State test or in the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) for students with severe disabilities. The CSE’s decision must be documented in the student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP). The criteria that the CSE must use to determine eligibility for the NYSAA is available on the Department’s web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/nysaa/>.

## ADDITIONAL REQUESTING AND PACKING INFORMATION

- *Regular Test Booklets:* Test booklets are shipped in packages of 25.
- *Braille and Large-Type Test Materials:* Because of the expense incurred by the Department in the production of braille and large-type tests, request on the online examination request system only the **exact number** of braille and large-type test materials needed for students whose IEP or Section 504 Accommodation Plan (504 Plan) specifically requires either of these accommodations.
- *Alternative Language Test Booklets:* For all languages, request the **exact number** of test booklets needed. Spanish editions are shipped in packages of 25.
- *Performance Test Station Diagrams for Science Tests:* Ten sets (enough to test 30 students at one time) of the station diagrams for the performance test components of the Grade 4 Elementary-Level Science Test and the Grade 8 Intermediate-Level Science Test will be sent automatically to each school requesting these tests. Braille, large-type, and alternative language editions of the station diagrams will be provided based on the number of those booklets requested.
- *Answer Sheets:* The Department does **not** provide answer sheets. Schools must make arrangements with a RIC or large-city scanning center for these.

## SHIPPING OF TEST MATERIALS

All test shipments will be delivered by UPS and may be delivered at any time between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Schools can track the shipment of test materials on the internet from one to three days before the scheduled delivery date.

1. Go to <http://www.ups.com/tracking/tracking.html>.
2. Click “Track by Reference Number.”
3. In the Reference Number field, type the BEDS code of the school where you indicated you wanted your tests to be shipped.

4. If you are unable to track your shipment, or notice some other irregularity, contact the Office of State Assessment (OSA) via fax to 518-474-2021.

## STORAGE OF TEST MATERIALS

The ELA and Mathematics Tests must be stored in the safe or vault of the building where the tests will be shipped. While it is not required that the Grade 4 Elementary-Level Science Test or the Grade 8 Intermediate-Level Science Test be stored in a safe or vault, they **must** be stored in a secure location. All secure test materials must be placed in the storage location as soon as they are received. Access to the test materials must be restricted to ensure that test security is maintained.

If the building where the tests will be administered does not have a safe or vault large enough to hold the ELA or Mathematics Tests, arrangements must be made to store these tests at a school or district location with an appropriate safe or vault. If you indicate that your tests will be stored at an alternate storage location other than that indicated in the shipping information on the School Information page when requesting tests via the online examination request system, you will be required to complete the *Examination Storage Plan* form, found on the online examination request system, and fax it to OSA at 518-474-2021. Tests stored at such a location must not be transferred to the school where the tests will be administered until the day scheduled for the administration of that part of the test.

Tests and secure materials may not be removed from any secure storage location until the day scheduled for the administration of each part of the test, except during the inventory of test materials when the test shipment is received. The shrink-wrapped packages of secure test materials must not be opened during the inventory. All secure test materials must remain sealed until the test administration date (with the exception of the materials needed to conduct the orientation for administrators of the science performance tests). The shrink-wrapped packages of the science station diagrams may be opened when the stations for the performance test are being set up. All scoring key packages must remain sealed until the tests have been administered in the school.

## REQUESTING INFORMATION

You must have a username and password in order to enter your school's exam requests online. If you were the principal of the same school during the 2014–15 school year, the expectation is that you have previously been issued a valid username and password. Use those to log onto the online examination request system. Telephone requests will not be accepted.

If you were the principal of the same school during the 2014–15 school year, but you have forgotten your password or you need to reset your password, access the "Reset Password" utility available from <http://portal.nysed.gov>. More information on this utility may be obtained from the Department's Delegated Account System (SEDDAS) Help Desk at 518-473-8832 or [seddas\\_help@nysed.gov](mailto:seddas_help@nysed.gov).

If you are a **new** principal and do not have a valid username and password, determine which of the following situations applies to you.

- **Principals of New York City Public Schools and New York City Charter Schools:** Contact your Borough Assessment Implementation Director (BAID) at your Borough Assessment Office (BAO).
- **Principals of Public Schools or BOCES Programs Located Outside of New York City:** Contact your School Superintendent or Delegated Administrator to obtain your username and password.
- **Principals of Nonpublic Schools and Non-New York City Charter Schools:** Contact the Department's Delegated Account System (SEDDAS) Help Desk at 518-473-8832 or [seddas\\_help@nysed.gov](mailto:seddas_help@nysed.gov) to obtain your username and password. If you have not yet done so, you must notify the Department's Office of Information and Reporting Services via fax

to 518-402-5361 or 474-4351 that you are the new principal. This notice must be written on school letterhead stationery and must include your full name, your e-mail address, your school's BEDS Code, your previous position, and, for purposes of future password confirmations, your city of birth.

All questions regarding usernames and passwords for public schools **must** be directed to your Delegated Administrator in your local school district or for nonpublic schools the SEDDAS Help Desk at 518-473-8832 or [seddas\\_help@nysed.gov](mailto:seddas_help@nysed.gov).

More information on these and other State assessments is available on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/>. If you have specific questions concerning the requesting of test materials, or any of the other information in this memorandum, please call 518-474-8220.