



RTTT Facts for Families

RACE TO THE TOP

March 2012

Facts for Families

is a regional publication to help the parents in our region better understand how the federal Race To The Top (RTTT) initiative will impact their child(ren).



In this issue, you'll gain understanding and learn tips that you can implement at home.



New Criteria of the Grades 3 – 8 English Language Arts and Mathematics Assessments

English Language Arts Assessments

The 3-8 English Language Arts Assessment will be given on April 17 - 19, 2012, and will assess the 2005 standards that can be located at: www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/ela/elacore.htm.

Reading and Listening selections

Tests at every grade level contain both literary and informational reading passages. Literary passages may include short stories, folk tales, poetry, or other forms of literary writing. Informational passages may include articles, excerpts from biographies or autobiographies, essays, or other forms of informational writing.



Reading/Writing

In 2012, there will be a change to how writing mechanics will be tested. Writing mechanics will no longer be tested as part of the multiple-choice format. Extended responses, similar to essay questions, will incorporate writing mechanics into the scoring rubric.

ELA Assessments Consists Of:

| Grade | Number of reading and listening to passages | Number of multiple choice questions | Number of short-response questions | Number of extended-response questions |
|-------|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 3rd | 12 | 53 | 7 | 2 |
| 4th | 13 | 57 | 7 | 2 |
| 5th | 13 | 57 | 7 | 2 |
| 6th | 12 | 57 | 7 | 2 |
| 7th | 13 | 57 | 7 | 2 |
| 8th | 12 | 57 | 7 | 2 |

Test Length:

Each grade level assessment is comprised of three test booklets that will be administered over three days.

Grades 3-8

Booklet 1 = 70 minutes
Booklet 2 = 60 minutes

Grades 3-5

Booklet 3 = 45 minutes

Grades 6-8

Booklet 3 = 50 minutes

| Standard Being Tested At Each Grade Level | Grade 3 | Grade 4 | Grade 5 | Grade 6 | Grade 7 | Grade 8 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking for Information and Understanding | 33% | 36% | 43% | 36% | 39% | 39% |
| 2. Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking for Literary Response and Expression | 47% | 44.5% | 36% | 44.5% | 39% | 39% |
| 3. Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking for Critical Analysis and Evaluation | 20% | 19.5% | 21% | 19.5% | 22% | 22% |

Grades 3-8 Mathematics

The 3-8 Mathematics Assessment will be given on April 25 - 27, 2012, and will assess the 2005 standards that can be located at: www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/mst/math/standards/core.html

Each grade level will be assessed on the current grade level's September-April performance indicators and the previous grade levels May-June performance indicators. Each grade levels assessment is comprised of three test booklets that will be administered over three days. The time for completion of each test booklet is 60 minutes with the exception of the 3rd Grade Booklet 3, which will be completed in 50 minutes.

Use of Reference Sheets

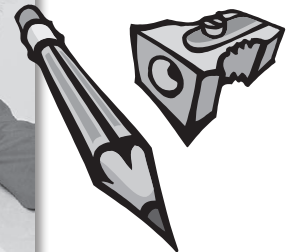
Book 3 of the Grades 7 and 8 Mathematics Tests contains a removable reference sheet that the students can use during testing. These reference sheets include the necessary formulas and reference information students need to assist them in answering certain mathematics questions. The 7th grade reference sheet can be found at:

www.p12.nysed.gov/apda/eliinfo/7mathref-2010.pdf



Use of Calculators

For the short-response and extended-response questions in Grades 7 and 8, Book 3, students will need a scientific calculator.



Value of Pi

For the short-response and extended-response questions in Grades 7 and 8, the π key and the full display of the calculator should be used in computations. The approximate values of π , such as 3.1416, 3.14, or 22/7 are unacceptable. Since calculator use is not permitted for the Grade 6 Test, students at that grade should leave their answers in terms of π for greatest accuracy (i.e., students should leave the symbol π in their responses).

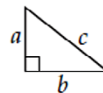


Sample 8th Grade

Mathematics Reference Sheet

FORMULAS

Pythagorean Theorem



$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2$$

Simple Interest

$$I = prt$$

Distance Formula

$$d = rt$$

CONVERSIONS

Temperature Conversions

$$F = \frac{9}{5}C + 32$$

$$C = \frac{5}{9}(F - 32)$$

Measurement Conversions

$$1 \text{ mile} = 5,280 \text{ feet}$$

$$1 \text{ yard} = 3 \text{ feet}$$

Assessments



Use of Mathematics Tools

The school district will provide each student in Grades 3–8 with a ruler for his or her exclusive use during the Mathematics Test. Each student in Grades 5 and 7 will also have a protractor for his or her exclusive use during the test.

| Mathematics Assessments Consist Of: | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Grade | Number of multiple choice questions | Number of short-response questions | Number of extended-response questions |
| 3rd grade | 58 | 4 | 3 |
| 4th grade | 62 | 5 | 4 |
| 5th grade | 60 | 4 | 4 |
| 6th grade | 60 | 5 | 4 |
| 7th grade | 62 | 5 | 4 |
| 8th grade | 62 | 5 | 4 |



| Standard Being Assessed On Math Assessments | Grade 3 | Grade 4 | Grade 5 | Grade 6 | Grade 7 | Grade 8 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. Number Sense and Operations | 41% | 45% | 39% | 37% | 30% | 11% |
| 2. Algebra | 13% | 14% | 11% | 19% | 12% | 44% |
| 3. Geometry | 13% | 12% | 25% | 17% | 14% | 35% |
| 4. Measurement | 13% | 17% | 14% | 11% | 14% | 10% |
| 5. Probability and Statistics | 13% | 12% | 11% | 16% | 30% | 0% |

For Past ELA and Math Assessments for Grades 3-5:

www.nysedregents.org/elementary.html

For Past ELA and Math Assessments for Grades 6-8:

www.nysedregents.org/intermediate.html



Test Taking Tips

Tips to give your child:

- ❖ Relax. Do the best you can.
- ❖ Your first choice is usually correct. Don't change an answer unless you have a good reason to do so.
- ❖ Be aware of key words such as "all," "now," "always," "never," "only," "exactly."
- ❖ In multiple-choice questions, don't skip the longest answer. It should be considered, since test writers want to be sure the correct answer is accurate – they may add lots of details to ensure accuracy.
- ❖ Watch for negative words like "not," "no," "never."
- ❖ Look for information in some of the questions. This information may help you answer other questions.



Assist your child in preparing for testing:

- ❖ Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep before a test.
- ❖ Make sure your child eats properly the day of a test.
- ❖ Make sure your child has taken any needed medication.
- ❖ Get your child to school on time the day of the test.
- ❖ Wish your child good luck each morning of the test. Tell your child that he/she is special and that you believe in him/her!
- ❖ Remind your child the test is important. Encourage him/her to do his/her best.
- ❖ Remind your child to listen carefully to the instructions from the teacher and to read the directions and each question carefully.
- ❖ Tell your child to attempt to answer all of the questions and not to leave any blank. If your child gets stuck on a question, encourage him or her to make the best guess and move on.
- ❖ Encourage your child to stay focused on the test, even if other students finish early.

