

## Frequently Asked Questions Regarding State Assessments

### Who takes the State Assessments?

All students in grades 3rd-8th, 10th and 11th.

### What do the State Assessments cover?

All 3rd-8th and 10th graders take Math and English Language Arts tests. 5th, 8th and 11th also take a Science test. History/Government is offered this year only for 6th, 8th and 11th graders. Computerized tests allow students to demonstrate their knowledge in various ways. The use of technology-enhanced items ask students to do more than choose the right answer from a list. For example, students may be required to order items, create categories, label areas, plot graphs, select multiple options and create written responses.

### What is the earliest test date?

Each TPS school has a slightly different testing schedule, but all math and language arts tests will be during the first week of April. The opening of the State assessment window is March 13, 2018.

### What is the KSDE site for more information?

[www.ksassessments.org](http://www.ksassessments.org)

### What are sites online that gives sample test questions if there is one?

[www.ksassessments.org/released-items](http://www.ksassessments.org/released-items)

### What does the state consider proficient and above?

Assessments are used to place your student's assessment scores into one of four possible categories: Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 and Level 4. Levels 3 is considered grade-level proficient and level 4 is above grade-level proficient.

### When are the State Assessments given in TPS?

Tests are given beginning mid-March to the end of April 2018.

### When will scores be returned?

The State typically releases the scores to TPS in mid-May.

### Why do students need to take the State Assessments?

The tests provides parents, educators, and policymakers with one piece of information about student learning. Also, these tests meet federal and state accountability requirements.

### How can parents help their students be successful on the State Assessments?

- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast. Many teachers report that students who don't do well on tests haven't gotten enough sleep and haven't eaten breakfast on the morning of the test. Doing both of these things will ensure that your child can do their best.
- Make sure your child has enough time to wake up fully before he or she has to go to school. Just as rest is important, so is having enough time to get his brain engaged and in gear. If the test is first thing in the morning, your child can't afford to spend the first hour of school groggy and unfocused.
- Make sure your child gets to school on time.
- Don't let your child stay home unless he or she is truly sick.
- Be calm and positive about the test. Staying calm will help your child stay calm. If he or she gets nervous about the test help them practice some relaxation techniques that they use when they are taking the test.
- Avoid doctor visits and other outside appointments for your child on testing days.

### How do they know their child's schedule?

Please contact your school for details on your child's state assessment schedule.

**How will they get their child's scores?**

Score reports will be available on the parent portal in June. However, scores can be requested anytime via email ([akipp@tps501.org](mailto:akipp@tps501.org)).

**How can a parent find out their past score to set goals?**

Past scores can be requested anytime during the year ([akipp@tps501.org](mailto:akipp@tps501.org)).

**How many hours is each test?**

Each test (math, language arts, science, history/government) is split into 2 45 minute sessions.