



State Reading, Math and Science Assessments Aligned to No Child Left Behind

By Mary Fulton

April 2006

Overview

No Child Left Behind requires states to test students annually in reading and mathematics in grades 3-8 and once in high school by the 2005-06 school year. The federal law also requires states to administer science assessments at least once in the following grade ranges: 3-5, 6-9 and 10-12 by 2007-08. The exams must be based on state academic standards, and the reading and math results determine whether schools, districts and states make adequate yearly progress (AYP) under NCLB's accountability provisions.

The following chart lists the grades in which these subjects are tested or scheduled for all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The information is based on enacted or adopted state policies, and in the case of reading and math, actual implementation of the assessments. Several states already have science exams in place, but many plan to do so by the 2007-08 deadline, which is indicated on the chart.

Please note that not all the grade-level exams listed are used for NCLB accountability purposes, but are included nonetheless. For example, New Mexico's 11th-grade assessment is used to determine AYP, but not the 10th-grade competency test.

Summary

- Forty-nine states and the District of Columbia have annual, statewide, standards-based reading and math assessments in grades 3-8 and at least once in high school. Iowa uses locally developed tests.
- Twenty-seven states currently have annual, statewide, standards-based science tests for the following grade bands: 3-5, 6-9 and 10-12. Twenty-one states will develop and administer science exams by 2007-08 and Pennsylvania is awaiting final approval of their test development policy. Iowa uses locally developed tests and D.C. does not appear to administer science exams.
- As of spring 2006, 27 states meet NCLB reading, math and science assessment requirements.
- Although NCLB does not require high school exit exams, 15 states currently use their reading and math graduation exams to fulfill NCLB high school testing requirements. New Mexico, Texas and Utah have exit exams in reading and math, but do not use them for NCLB purposes. Other states will be implementing or upgrading existing exit exams in the next several years.

STATE	Reading Assessments As of Spring 2006 (Grades 3-8 and high school by 2005-06)	Math Assessments As of Spring 2006 (Grades 3-8 and high school by 2005-06)	Science Assessments As of Spring 2006 (Grade Bands: 3-5, 6-9, 10-12 by 2007-08)
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STATE	Reading Assessments As of Spring 2006 (Grades 3-8 and high school by 2005-06)	Math Assessments As of Spring 2006 (Grades 3-8 and high school by 2005-06)	Science Assessments As of Spring 2006 (Grade Bands: 3-5, 6-9, 10-12 by 2007-08)
Alabama	3-8 and 11 (exit exam)	3-8 and 11 (exit exam)	5 and 7 (by 2008) and 11 (exit exam)
Alaska	3-9 and 10 (exit exam)	3-9 and 10 (exit exam)	4, 8 and 10 (by 2008)
Arizona	3-8 and 10 (exit exam)	3-8 and 10 (exit exam)	4, 8 and Biology end-of-course exam (by 2008)
Arkansas	3-8 and 11 (end-of-course exams)	3-8 and Algebra I and Geometry end-of-course exams	5, 7 and Biology I end-of-course exam (by 2007-08)
California	2-11 and exit exam beginning in 10	2-11 and exit exam beginning in 10	5 and 9-11
Colorado	3-10	3-10	5, 8 and by 2006-07 in grade 10
Connecticut	3-8 and 10	3-8 and 10	5, 8 and 10
Delaware	2-10	2-10	4, 6, 8, 11
District of Columbia	3-8 and 10	3-8 and 10	Not evident
Florida	3-10 (exit exam)	3-10 (exit exam)	5, 8 and 11
Georgia	3-8 and 11 (exit exam) and end-of-course exams in 9-12 (not used for NCLB)	3-8 and 11 (exit exam) and end-of-course exams in 9-12 (not used for NCLB)	3-8 and 11 (exit exam) and end-of-course exams in 9-12 (not used for NCLB)
Hawaii	3-8 and 10	3-8 and 10	5, 7 and 11 (by 2006-07)
Idaho	2-10 (exit exam)	2-10 (exit exam)	5, 7 and 10 (by 2007)
Illinois	3-8 and 11	3-8 and 11	4, 7 and 11
Indiana	3-10 (exit exam) and English II end-of-course exam (not used for NCLB)	3-10 (exit exam) and Algebra I end-of-course exam (not used for NCLB)	5 and 7 (current) and 9 (by 2006-07)
Iowa	Districts required to assess grades 3-8 and 11**	Districts required to assess grades 3-8 and 11**	Districts required to assess grades 5 (by 2007-08), 8 and 11**
Kansas	3-8 and 11	3-8 and 10	4, 7 and 10 (beginning in 2007-08)
Kentucky	3-9 and 10	3-8 and 11	4, 7 and 11
Louisiana	3-10 (exit exam)	3-10 (exit exam)	3-9 and 11 (exit exam)
Maine	3-8 and 11	3-8 and 11	4, 8 and 11
Maryland	3-8 and English 2 (currently end-of-course exam and exit exam in 2009)	3-8 and Algebra and Geometry (currently end-of-course exams and exit exams in 2009)	3, 5, 8 (by 2008) and Biology (currently end-of-course exam and exit exam by 2009)
Massachusetts	3-8 and 10 (exit exam)	3-8 and 10 (exit exam)	5, 8 and high school end-of-course exams
Michigan	3-8 and 11	3-8 and 11	5, 8 and 11
Minnesota	3-8 and 10 (exit exam in 2010)	3-8 and 11 (exit exam in 2010)	5, 8 and Biology end-of-course exam (by 2008)
Mississippi	2-8 and high school (exit and end-of-course exams)	2-8 and high school (exit and end-of-course exams)	5, 8 and high school (exit and end-of-course exams)
Missouri	3-8 and 11	3-8 and 10	3, 7 and 10
Montana	3-8 and 11	3-8 and 11	4, 8 and 11 (by 2007-08)
Nebraska	3-8 and 11***	3-8 and 11***	4, 8 and 11

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Nevada	3-8 and high school exit exam beginning in 10	3-8 and high school exit exam beginning in 10	5, 8 and 10 (by 2006-07 and exit exam as of 2009)
New Hampshire	3-8 and 10 (until 2005-06, then new grade 11 exam)	3-8 and 10 (until 2005-06, then new grade 11 exam)	6 and 10 (current) 4, 8 and 11 (new exam by 2007-08)
New Jersey	3-8 and 11 (exit exam)	3-8 and 11 (exit exam)	4, 8 and 11 (by 2006-07 and as exit exam)
New Mexico	3-9 and 10 (exit exam, not used for NCLB) and 11	3-9 and 10 (exit exam, not used for NCLB) and 11	3-9 and 11 (in 2007-08)
New York	3-8 and high school Regents Exam (end-of-course exams)	3-8 and high school Regents Exam (end-of-course exams)	4, 8 and high school Regents Exam (end-of-course exams)
North Carolina	3-8 and English I end-of-course exam (exit exam in 2010) and Writing (grade 10)	3-8 and Algebra I (exit exam in 2010) and other end-of-course exams 9-12 (not used for NCLB)	5, 8 (in 2006-07) and 9-12 (end-of-course exams; Biology 1 will be exit exam in 2010)
North Dakota	3-8 and 11	3-8 and 11	4, 8 and 11 (by 2007-08)
Ohio	3-8 and 10 (exit exam as of 2007)	3-8 and 10 (exit exam as of 2007)	5, 8 and 10 (exit exam as of 2007)
Oklahoma	3-8 and English II end-of-course exam	3-8 and Algebra I end-of-course exam	5, 8 and Biology end-of-course exam
Oregon	3-8 and 10	3-8 and 10	5, 8 and 10
Pennsylvania	3-8 and 11	3-8 and 11	Proposed for grades 4, 7 and 10 ****
Rhode Island	3-8 and 11	3-8 and 11	4, 8 and 11 (by 2007-08)
South Carolina	3-8 and high school exit exam beginning in 10 (end-of-course exams also offered, but not used for NCLB)	3-8 and high school exit exam beginning in 10 (end-of-course exams also offered, but not used for NCLB)	3-8 and Physical Science, Biology I/ Applied Biology 2 end-of-course exams
South Dakota	3-8 and 11 (augmented NRT) and 3, 6 and 10 (online CRT exam, not used for NCLB)	3-8 and 11 (augmented NRT) and 3, 6 and 10 (online CRT exam, not used for NCLB)	3-8 and 11 (augmented NRT by 2007) and 3, 6 and 10 (online CRT exam, not used for NCLB)
Tennessee	3-8 and English II (end-of course and exit exam); English I offered, but not used for NCLB	3-8 and Algebra I (end-of course and exit exam); other end-of-course exams offered, but not used for NCLB	3-8 and Biology (end-of course and exit exam); Physical Science offered, but not used for NCLB
Texas	3-9 (reading) and 10 (English language arts) and 11 (exit exam, not used for NCLB)	3-10 and 11 (exit exam, not used for NCLB)	5, 8, 10 and 11 (exit exam, not used for NCLB)
Utah	1-11 and exit exam in 10 (not used for NCLB)	1-7; end-of-course for 8-12; and exit exam in 10 (not used for NCLB)	4-6; 7-8 (integrated science) and high school end-of-course exams
Vermont	3-8 and 10	3-8 and 10	5, 9 and 11
Virginia	3-8 and high school end-of-course and exit exams	3-8 and high school end-of-course and exit exams	3, 5, 8 and high school end-of-course and exit exams
Washington	3-8 and 10 (exit exam)	3-8 and 10 (exit exam)	5, 8 and 10

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West Virginia	3-8 and 10	3-8 and 10	3-8 and 10
Wisconsin	3-8 and 10	3-8 and 10	4, 8 and 10 (by 2006-07)
Wyoming	3-8 and 11	3-8 and 11	4, 8 and 11

Notes:

** Iowa requires districts to assess students in the grades and subjects required by NCLB. The exams, however, are locally developed and not subject to specific state requirements or review.

*** Nebraska has statewide standards-based assessments for grades 4, 8 and 11. Beginning in 2005-06, districts must report local assessment results for grades 3, 5, 6 and 7, which are based on one of four approved models and undergo rigorous state review.

**** The Pennsylvania State Board of Education proposed regulations in November 2005 to develop science assessments in grades 4, 7 and 10 by 2006-07.

Sources:

ECS' No Child Left Behind state implementation database

<http://nclb2.ecs.org/NCLBSURVEY/NCLB.aspx>

State statutes, administrative codes and department of education Web sites

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