

## General Questions – Next Generation of Assessments Field Tests

Spring 2014

***Ohio is moving from paper and pencil state tests to a computer-based testing system in 2014-2015. The new tests are called Ohio's Next Generation of Assessments. They are based on Ohio's New Learning Standards in English language arts, math, science and social studies.***

One year before the new tests, Ohio is giving students, teachers and schools the opportunity to see and try how a computer-based test will work. This opportunity is called field tests.

Questions about field tests:

### ***How are the Next Generation tests different from the current Ohio tests?***

The new tests are computer-based, not traditional paper and pencil. There are two parts of the new tests—performance-based and end-of-year. Each part occurs at different times in the 2014-2015 school year. In several years, your child will take each part when your teacher believes he or she is ready, not in one specific month. Until that time, students will take the tests per the district test schedule.

### ***What is a performance-based test?***

This part allows your child to show what they can do with what they have learned in the first seven months of the school year. The performance-based test does take more time to score, which is why this part will come first. Previous generations of students experienced this type of test as the essay part of a test. However, technology did not exist in tests of previous generations. Your child will use more than words to answer these questions. They will use technology to create visuals as well as words to answer a question.

### ***What is an end-of-year test?***

This part allows your child to show what they have learned in the school year. The computer scans the answers and scores the test. Because results are quicker, the end-of-year tests will occur late in the school year. Previous generations of students experienced this type of test as the final exam in a course or the grade-level state test in a subject. The majority of questions will be multiple choice.

### ***What is a field test?***

The field test measures the quality of the test; it does not measure your child's knowledge or skills. There are no scores for your child in a field test. Information learned from the field test is critical to develop good tests that allow your child to show what he or she knows and can do when they take the actual tests in the 2014-2015 school year.

### ***Why are the field tests necessary?***

This spring's field tests let Ohio try out test questions, ensure the questions are aligned to the content areas they cover and build the best tests we can. While there are no scores reported for students or schools, we ask families and teachers to encourage students to do their best in using the technology and answering the questions.

### ***Will my child take a field test?***

Field tests sample the questions and tasks with some children, not every child. Many, but not all the public schools, including charter schools, will participate in one or more parts of the field tests. Your school will contact you if your child is participating.

***How many field tests will he or she take?***

Your child may take a field test in one or more subjects. There are field tests in four subjects – English language arts, math, science and social studies.

***How much time does a field test take?***

Each part of a field test will take 60-130 minutes, depending on the test.

***What are the field tests?***

English language arts – Grades 3 through 8, High School English I, II, III

Math – Grades 3 through 8, High School Algebra I, II, Geometry, Math I, II, III

Social studies – Grades 4 and 6, American Government and American History

Science – Grades 5 and 8, Biology and Physical Science

***When will the field tests be in spring 2014?***

There are two test periods:

All performance-based tests will take place March 24-April 18.

All end-of-year tests will take place May 5-June 6.

***Will the field tests include paper versions?***

Yes, for English language arts and math. No, for science and social studies.

***Will students with disabilities and English language learners be included in the field tests?***

Yes, the field tests will measure how user-friendly the features and accommodations are for students with disabilities and English language learners.

***Will my child have a chance to prepare for the field tests?***

Yes, teachers will help students get ready for the field tests by practicing sample questions and items online. The student preparation site is a practice tool for familiarizing your child with online assessments. Practice tests for the 2014-2015 Next Generation of Assessments will be ready next fall (2014).

***If my child is participating in the field test, must he or she also take the spring 2014 OAA or OGT?***

Yes. Students who participate in the field tests will still take the Ohio Achievement Assessments and the Ohio Graduation Test.

***Why do we need new tests?***

Ohio has new standards. Our current state tests do not include all the new standards. The Next Generation of Assessments will.