

## Ohio's Next Generation Assessments Field Test Fact Sheet

*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 Assessments. They are based on Ohio's New Learning Standards in English language arts, math, science and social studies. In March, Ohio is holding field tests for the new assessments.*

**A Test of the Test:** 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 will help the test designers make sure systems work and the test items are accurate questions about the subject.

**Giving Ohio Students and Teachers a Voice:** The results and subsequent surveys will give Ohio students and teachers a chance to help build a better assessment system. The findings will be used to make adjustments to the system prior to its launch in spring 2015.

**Schools Were Randomly Chosen and Volunteered to Participate:** Participation by schools is voluntary and more than 2,000 have signed up to take part in some or all of the field tests.

**Field Tests Have No Stakes:** Field tests don't yield scores for individual students or teachers. The Ohio Department of Education won't have scores at the end of the field tests.

**Testing Dates:** Field tests include English language arts, math, science and social studies. Field tests for performance-based assessments will take place March 24-April 18. The field tests for the end-of-year assessments will take place May 5-June 6.

**Why Does Ohio Need New Tests?** The Next Generation Assessments will support Ohio's New Learning Standards. The standards are more challenging and enable our students to benefit from a deeper learning experience that better prepares them for life in today's world. The new standards give educators time to delve deeper into topics and subject areas. They also allow students to develop critical thinking skills and the ability to compare, contrast and analyze.

### Facts:

Who is participating?

English language arts and math – 290 school districts, 2,000 schools

Science and social studies – 422 school districts, 670 schools