

GUIDANCE ON 2 PERCENT LIMIT FOR TIME SPENT ON STATE OR DISTRICT TESTING

State law limits the amount of time students should spend taking state and district tests. This document outlines legislative requirements for the testing time limit and a tool to help districts and schools calculate the testing time for their students.

Beginning with assessments administered on or after July 1, 2017, the board of education of each city, local and exempted village school district shall make sure that no student is required to do either of the following:

1. Spend a cumulative amount of time in excess of 2 percent of the school year taking state- and district-required assessments combined;
2. Spend a cumulative amount of time in excess of 1 percent of the school year taking practice or diagnostic assessments used to prepare for assessments.

The limitations do not apply to assessments for students with disabilities, any related diagnostic assessments for students who failed to attain passing scores on the English language arts achievement assessments, substitute examinations, or additional assessments administered to identify students as gifted.

The local board of education of each city, exempted village and local school district may exceed the limitations by resolution of the district board. However, prior to the adoption of this resolution, the board must conduct at least one public hearing on the proposed resolution.

Which state tests are included?

All Ohio's State Tests in grades 3-8 for English language arts, mathematics and science (14 different tests, with grade 3 English language arts administered twice for a total of 15 tests) and seven high school end-of-course tests for first-time test takers. All districts and schools required to participate in state testing must plan to include the time for these tests within their 2 percent limit or pass a board resolution to exceed the 2 percent limit.

The chart below shows the time allowed for each state tests and the total allotted time at each grade level.

Grade*	Test	Test	Test	Total Allotted Time
3	ELA Fall (3 hrs)	ELA Spring (3 hrs)	Math (2.5 hrs)	8.5 hours
4	ELA (3 hrs)	Math (2.5 hrs)		5.5 hours
5	ELA (3 hrs)	Math (2.5 hrs)	Science (2.5 hrs)	8 hours
6	ELA (3.5 hrs)	Math (3 hrs)		6.5 hours
7	ELA (3.5 hrs)	Math (3 hrs)		6.5 hours
8	ELA (3.5 hrs)	Math (3 hrs)	Science (2.5 hrs)	9 hours
9	ELA I (3.5 hrs)	Algebra I (3 hrs)	Biology (3 hrs)	9.5 hours
10	ELA II (3.5 hrs)	Geometry (3 hrs)	American History (3 hrs)	9.5 hours
11	American Government (3 hrs)			3 hours
Grade level for high school tested courses may vary				

*Effective spring 2017, English Language Arts tests for grades 6-8, English language arts I and English language arts II will have two writing prompts, as described in the Ohio Blueprint. The testing time noted above for these English language arts tests is divided into two sessions of one hour and 45 minutes each. It is each district's discretion to allow students additional time to complete the test — 30 additional minutes (15 minutes per session, for a total of two hours per session). Not all students will need this additional time and, in some sessions, no students will need this time.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What tests count as district tests?

Any test that the district administers to all students in a specified content area or grade level.

In some cases, assessments that measure Student Learning Objectives (SLO) may be included in the 2% cap, depending on how the district administers the SLO assessment. Example: If the same SLO assessment is given to all Algebra I students then it would fall under the 2% cap. However, if each Algebra I teacher administers their own SLO assessment to their students, it would not fit into the 2% cap.

What tests are exempt from the 2 percent limit?

The following tests are exempt from this limit:

- Assessments for students with disabilities;
- Any related diagnostic tests for students who failed to attain passing scores on the grade 3 English language arts assessment;
- Substitute exams for high school end-of-course exams (Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate tests in science and social studies or College Credit Plus course tests); and
- Any additional tests administered to identify students as gifted.

State law does not include the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA), WorkKeys, or the state-funded ACT or SAT for high school juniors in the 2 percent state testing limit.

What practice tests are included in the 1 percent cap on preparation for state and district tests?

Practice tests and diagnostic assessments used for preparation for state tests included in the above chart and for tests the district identifies as districtwide tests for all students in a specified content area or grade level are included.

How are districts expected to calculate time on tests?

Districts have flexibility in calculating time on tests. They should calculate the 2 percent testing time limit based on hours in the district calendar at each grade level. For most schools, this calculation will allow for approximately 18 to 22 hours for the defined state and district tests. Testing times in the above chart are for allowable time on the tests and may not reflect actual student testing time. A district may determine whether to use maximum allowable testing time or actual student time on tests in tracking the testing time limit.

How do districts track and monitor time on tests?

The process to track time is a local decision. The district should be able to respond to stakeholder questions and concerns if asked how the district is tracking time.

Will districts be required to report time on tests to the Department?

There are no current plans for the Department to collect this data.

If a school reaches the 2 percent limit prior to the required state tests, is the school excused from administering the required state tests?

No, the school plan must provide time for student participation in required state tests within its 2 percent plan.

TEMPLATE FOR 2 PERCENT LIMIT FOR TIME SPENT ON STATE OR DISTRICT TESTING

District limits are based on the number of hours in the district calendar at each grade level. To calculate the limit at each grade level, take the district number of hours at a grade level and multiply by .02. This will determine the limit for the number of hours of testing (*__ hours*) at each grade level.

Grade	Test	Testing time	Time remain of the 2%
Grade 1 (<i>__ hours</i>)			
Grade 2 (<i>__ hours</i>)			
Grade 3 (<i>__ hours</i>)	English Language Arts (fall)	3	
	English Language Arts (spring)	3	
	Mathematics	2.5	
Grade 4 (<i>__ hours</i>)	English Language Arts	3	
	Mathematics	2.5	
Grade 5 (<i>__ hours</i>)	English Language Arts	3	
	Mathematics	2.5	
	Science	2.5	
Grade 6 (<i>__ hours</i>)	English Language Arts	3.5	
	Mathematics	3	
Grade 7 (<i>__ hours</i>)	English Language Arts	3.5	
	Mathematics	3	

Grade	Test	Testing time	Time remain of the 2%
Grade 8 (__ hours)	English Language Arts	3.5	
	Mathematics	3	
	Science	2.5	
Grade 9 (__ hours)	English Language Arts I	3.5	
	Algebra I or Math I	3	
	Biology	3	
Grade 10 (__ hours)	English Language Arts II	3.5	
	Geometry or Math II	3	
	American History	3	
Grade 11 (__ hours)	American Government	3	
Grade 12 (__ hours)			