

Grade 3 Testing: Paper or Online Administration

2020-2021

INTRODUCTION

- Since 2014, Ohio has transitioned state testing from paper-and-pencil to online administrations.
- Nearly 100% of third-grade students took their English language arts and mathematics tests online in the 2018-2019 school year.
- In fall 2019, the percentage of third-grade students who took their English language arts tests online was 77 percent.
- A mode comparability study examining any differences attributable to mode alone will be conducted for each fall and spring test administration of the Ohio State Tests (OSTs).

A few exceptions to online testing are available for students' religious beliefs and students who require paper test forms as an accommodation documented in their individualized education programs (IEP) or 504 plans. In addition, there are rare exceptions to online testing based on a verified lack of technology infrastructure at a district or school.

OHIO REVISED CODE §3301.0711(G)(4)

State law allows districts the option of paper or online test administration for the third-grade state assessments. Specifically, Ohio Revised Code Section 3301.0711(G)(4) provides that

...a school district, other public school, or chartered nonpublic school may administer the third-grade English language arts or mathematics assessment, or both, in a paper format in any school year for which the district board of education or school governing body adopts a resolution indicating that the district or school chooses to administer the assessment in a paper format. The board or governing body shall submit a copy of the resolution to the department of education...prior to the school year for which it will apply. If the resolution is submitted, the district or school shall administer the assessment in a paper format to all students in the third grade, except that any student whose individualized education program or plan developed under section 504 of the "Rehabilitation Act of 1973," 87 Stat. 355, 29 U.S.C. 794, as amended, specifies that taking the assessment in an online format is an appropriate accommodation for the student may take the assessment in an online format.

ACTION REQUIRED FOR PAPER TESTING

Because the election to use paper tests must be made by a district board of education or a governing authority, please advise your district board of education or governing authority to take action if paper-and-pencil test administration is desired. Under Section 17(I), House Bill 197, 133rd General Assembly, the deadline for submitting a resolution has been extended to July 1, 2020.

Districts and schools wishing to administer paper tests to their third-grade students must submit certified resolutions from their school boards or governing bodies on test administration occurring the following school year.

Any district or school that does **not** submit a certified resolution the deadline specified will be expected to test its grade 3 students online the following school year. A resolution needs to be submitted to the Department **only if a school or district is choosing paper tests for any of the four grade 3 tests.**

The option applies to the following tests in grade 3:

- OSTs in English language arts and/or mathematics;
- Ohio's Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (AASCD) English language arts and/or mathematics.

The online AASCD 2.0 administered in 2020-2021 is computer adaptive, while the paper version is not.

If the board resolution requires paper testing on OST and/or AASCD for students with disabilities, online testing is considered an accommodation and must be documented in students' individualized education programs (IEPs).

ACTION DEADLINE

Because of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis, the deadline for the board or governing body to submit a copy of the resolution to the Department is July 1, 2020.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Districts, community schools and chartered nonpublic schools may choose to administer paper tests to their third-grade students for the above tests only. The board's resolution to use paper tests is a general election but cannot supersede a student's IEP or 504 plan. In other words, if the district chooses paper tests, a student on an IEP or 504 plan must test online if the plan specifies that online mode.
- The statute provides that a board's election to use paper tests applies to all third grade students (with the exceptions for students with an IEP or 504 plan).
- For the 2020-2021 school year (English language arts tests in fall, spring and summer administrations; mathematics testing in spring), the district would submit the resolution to the Department by the deadline noted above.
- If a district or school continues to administer the tests online, paper accommodations as accessibility features are still available as detailed in [Ohio's Accessibility Manual](#). A board resolution regarding accommodations is **not** required.
- Any district or school that does not submit a certified resolution by the specified deadline will be expected to test its grade 3 students online the following school year. A resolution needs to be submitted to the Department **only if a school or district is choosing paper tests for any of the four grade 3 tests.**

QUESTIONS?

For questions, please contact the Office of Assessment at statetests@education.ohio.gov.