

Summative Assessments

One part of a comprehensive assessment system includes the administration of consistent and rigorous summative assessments, which include end-of-year (grades 3 through 8) and end-of-course (high school) assessments in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. The information that follows provides an overview of the 2016-2017 statewide summative assessments.

Grades 3–8 Summative Assessments

The Spring 2017 summative assessments in English language arts, math, science, and social studies for grades 3 through 8 continue to undergo various stages of development and implementation, as described below.

English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics

The Department released a Request for Proposals (RFP) on June 8 that seeks a vendor to provide a Louisiana-specific English language arts and mathematics test called LEAP 2025. The general requirements of the proposal call for ELA and mathematics assessments that

- are aligned strongly to the [ELA](#) and [mathematics](#) Louisiana Student Standards,
- yield valid and reliable results that are comparable with a significant number of other states and Louisiana's 2015 and 2016 assessments,
- use reporting categories and achievement levels that are comparable to the 2015 and 2016 Louisiana assessments, and
- are administered online in grades 3 through 8, and online or on paper in grades 3 and 4.

Similar to the last two years, the requirements for the **ELA tests in grades 3 through 8** will include the following:

- An integrated approach to reading and writing where students answer text-dependent questions and write in response to texts
- A balance of high-quality literary and informational texts that are grade-appropriate and complex enough to measure the range and depth of the ELA Louisiana Student Standards
- A variety of item types that require close analysis of texts
- Performance tasks that ask students to write in response to text(s) and cite evidence to support their ideas
- Authentic measurement of Language standards through actual student writing or exercises that reflect real-world activities

Similar to the last two years, requirements for the **mathematics tests in grades 3 through 8** include the following:

- Items that strongly focus on the content most needed in each grade and that reflect the expectations of the rigor detailed in the Louisiana Student Standards
- Items that address conceptual understanding, procedural skills and fluency, and application in every grade and at each performance level
- Items that meaningfully connect mathematical practices and processes with mathematical content, as required by the standards
- Some questions in every grade level that require students to model and make mathematical arguments

Science

Because science content standards will undergo revision during the 2016-2017 school year, the Spring 2017 science assessments (LEAP and iLEAP) in grades 3 through 8 will be structured the same as previous years' assessments. This means the test design and delivery method (paper-based testing) will not change. Science assessment guides remain available in the [Assessment Guidance](#) library. Necessary updates to links will be included in the August posting of the science assessment guides.

Once the revision process for academic content standards in science is completed, the Department will work to develop new operational science assessments for the 2018-2019 school year.

Social Studies

During the 2015-2016 school year, the Department developed and field-tested new test questions for grades 3 through 8 to measure the 2011 social studies content standards. The new test questions will be used to create new operational summative assessments that will be administered in grades 3 through 8 in the spring of 2017.

The Spring 2016 social studies field tests were shortened forms containing 4 to 5 item sets (depending upon grade level), a handful of stand-alone items, and a task set. However, the Spring 2017 operational forms are expected to contain 6 to 7 item sets (depending upon the grade level), some stand-alone items, and a task set. The Department will post the final design and testing times in the assessment guides during the fall.

End-of-Course Assessments

In the 2016-2017 school year, the primary change to the EOC tests will be the online platform used to administer the tests. It will now be the same online system that was used to deliver the Spring 2016 computer-based tests for grades 3 through 8 in ELA and mathematics and the social studies computer-based field tests. More information about the online system will be provided in the assessment guides, and opportunities for students to practice using the online system will be available when the Online Tools Training (OTT) for the EOC tests is released. See the resource schedule for more information.

As part of the move to a more cohesive assessment system in grades 3 through high school, the EOC tests will undergo the following additional changes over the next few years:

- All EOC tests will move from four-level to five-level tests, which means the results will be reported to five achievement levels (Excellent, Mastery, Basic, Approaching Basic, and Unsatisfactory) with general descriptions that match those used to describe student performance in grades 3 through 8.
- All EOC tests will reflect the depth and rigor of the content standards, whether that be existing standards, such as the U.S. History 2011 standards; the newly revised standards for ELA and mathematics; or the revised science standards that will be developed in the 2016-2017 school year.
- A five-level English I test will be developed to replace the English III test, which will eventually be phased out.

The following information describes the 2016-2017 EOC tests in more detail.

ELA and Mathematics EOC Tests

The structure and most of the content of the 2016-2017 ELA and mathematics EOC tests will look and feel much the same as previous years. However, the Department will do the following during the 2016-2017 school year to move toward better integration of the EOC tests into a cohesive assessment system for grades 3 through high school:

- Review existing question banks for Algebra I, Geometry, English II, and English III to remove questions that no longer align to the Louisiana Student Standards and to identify areas where test questions are needed due to new or revised standards
- Develop and field-test new items through an embedded design similar to previous years' tests to address new standards; for example, the statistics standards that are new to Geometry (This process will allow districts time to teach the new material and not hold students accountable for the new content in the 2016-2017 school year.)
- Work on the development of an English I EOC test that will be used in the 2017-2018 school year (There will not be an operational English I EOC as part of the graduation requirement in 2016-2017.)

Biology EOC Test

The structure, content, and reporting of the [Biology](#) test for 2016-2017 will remain the same as the 2015-2016 tests. Once the revision process for science academic content standards is completed in the spring of 2017, the Department will work to develop a new five-level Biology assessment based on the revised standards.

U.S. History EOC Test

The structure, content, and reporting of the [U.S. History](#) test for 2016-2017 will remain the same as the 2015-2016 tests. New items, including new item types (e.g., multiple-select, technology-enhanced), will be field-tested through an embedded design similar to previous years' tests to develop a new five-level U.S. History assessment for 2017-2018 that reflects the item- and task-set design used in grades 3 through 8.

Resources for 2016-2017

The timeline below provides general information about the availability of the summative assessment resources.

Resource	Release Date
2016-2017 Assessment Calendar	Currently available
Released and Sample Test Items	Currently available
2016-2017 Assessment Month-by-Month Checklist	August
Online Tools Training (OTT): available through Insight	August
ELA and Mathematics RFP awarded	Late August

<u>Assessment Guides</u>	Science/social studies: August ELA/math: mid-October
<u>Computer- and Paper-Based Practice Tests</u>	3–8 ELA and math: Winter

As additional resources become available, they will be added to the web pages found in the timeline.