KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

WHY STATEWIDE TESTING PARTICIPATION MATTERS TO FAMILIES

How Does Taking State Tests Help My Child?

- Testing is a great opportunity for your child to show everything they have been learning and practicing in connection with classroom instruction.
- Your child's school level of performance is determined based on the students' state testing scores, giving parents and community members an opportunity to know how the school is teaching all students.
- Testing scores are one way to evaluate your child's progress towards their personal dreams for career or college readiness goals.

How Does Taking State Tests Help My Child's School?

- It provides critical information to the district and state on how well all students in your child's school are doing, so the school can be supported.
- It allows teachers and principals to see any differences between groups of students and make improvements to instruction, so that all students can succeed.
- Allows teachers and principals to identify specific needs for different groups of students and guide them to make improvements to instruction that can help all students succeed.
- Highlights gaps in achievement, so steps can be taken to ensure all students are supported in making meaningful progress.
- Helps state policymakers and local school boards identify schools that may need more assistance or resources.

Did you know?

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)—the federal law that governs general education in public schools across the country—was passed in 2015 and requires statewide testing in certain grades and subjects.

Not too long ago, some students were not included in testing. Back then students with disabilities and English learners were often excluded.

How Can I Support My Child?

- Help your child understand the importance of taking state tests through positive conversations and continuous support.
- Discuss with your child's teacher whether there are some accommodations that could help your child better show what they know and can do.
- Parents can build positive and enriching conversations about testing while creating excitement and confidence in their children. Telling your child things such as, "I know you can do it!" teaches them to believe in themselves and believe, "I can do it."
- Modeling stress-reducing strategies as a family can help your child cope with anxiety. Practice breathing with your child, stretching, and even closing your eyes and staying in silence for a couple of minutes.
- Tests are part of daily life for everyone. Even as adults we take tests, for example, to earn a driver's license or earn a certificate for work.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
https://www.ksde.gov/student-success/assessments

KANSAS ASSESSMENT PROGRAM
https://ksassessments.org/

DYNAMIC LEARNING MAPS
https://dynamiclearningmaps.org/kansas

Even if tests are imperfect, having student test data is more important than being completely in the dark about how well we are educating our students.

Statewide testing is meant to show a snapshot of how a whole school system is performing. This allows for decisions that will improve instruction and provide targeted resources and support to different schools.

KSDE ASSESSMENT'S HOMEPAGE

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