KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

WHY STATEWIDE TESTING PARTICIPATION MATTERS TO STUDENTS

How Does Taking State Tests Help Me?

- It allows you to show what you've learned and practiced in your school.
- It lets you and your family know if your school is doing a good job supporting your learning.
- It gives you and your family information about how local schools in your community are meeting the needs of all students.
- It tells you and your family about your progress toward completing high school and success after high school, such as attending college and being ready for a career.

How Does Taking State Tests Help My School?

- Provides information to your principal and teachers about how well all students are doing at your school.
- Allows your principal and teachers to see any differences between groups of students and make improvements, so that all students can succeed.
- Helps leaders who make decisions know which schools need more money and help.
- Draws attention if some groups of students do not perform as well as others, and allows educators to address the learning needs of these students

Did you know?

The United States passed a law in 2015 that requires statewide testing in certain grades and subjects. All students in these grades take state tests.

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

By requiring that all students take the same test, schools and teachers can think about all students when they are planning.

What Can My Family and I Do So I Feel Supported?

- Talk with your family and make sure everyone understands why you are taking a state test.
- Talk with your family and teachers about things that can help you during the test (a seat far from the window where you won't be distracted, repeated directions if you often miss some of the details, calming music).
- Stay positive! Test scores are just one piece of information to use to reach your goals.
- Remember that testing is a regular part of learning and is supposed to help guide learning.
- Practice strategies that help you relax (breathing exercises, stretching, muscle relaxation), and then remember to use them during the test.

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

State tests are not perfect but having information about how all students are doing will help schools improve instruction for you and other students.

Statewide testing is meant to show how schools are doing, so they can better meet the needs of all students.

Statewide testing helps identify if some groups of students are not getting the instruction they need, so that changes can be made that will improve learning for them.

KSDE ASSESSMENT'S HOMEPAGE

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