

PARENT GUIDE TO THE 2016 LEAP TESTS

As schools and students begin their final preparations for the spring Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP) tests, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) created this fact sheet to provide parents with general information about the tests, and what you and your child can expect when he or she takes the tests in April and May.

KNOW THE TEST

1. LEAP TESTS

Each year, students in grades 3 through 8 take state tests to measure their knowledge and skills in each subject area and their readiness for the next level of study.

The LEAP tests are just one of several indicators, in combination with report cards, teacher-made tests, and classroom work, that are used to create a complete picture of a student's performance in school. The results from the tests will be used to help teachers identify when students need additional support or more challenging work in each subject area. This information is also used to measure how well schools and districts are helping students achieve higher expectations.

For the 2015–2016 school year, students will take the following tests in grades 3–8:

- English language arts (ELA)
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies (optional field test only)

Students with the most significant learning disabilities are eligible to take the LEAP Alternate Assessment, Level 1 (LAA 1) that varies by subject area depending on the grade level. The LAA 1 test was given to students from February 1 through March 11, depending on schools' individual schedules.

2. LEAP TEST SCHEDULE

School systems in Louisiana determined whether students will take the grades 3–8 LEAP tests in ELA and math online or on paper. Students will take the science test on paper only. Please contact your child's school or teacher with any questions you might have about the test schedule or format (online or paper).

QUICK FACTS

- » The schedule for the online tests for ELA and math are determined by each school system. Students will take a maximum of two sessions (one ELA and one math) per day for three days during this window. Please contact your child's school for more information.
- » The LEAP ELA and math tests are strictly timed, and no additional time is permitted except for students who have a documented extended time accommodation.

ONLINE TEST SCHEDULE: APRIL 11–MAY 6

TIME ALLOWED IN MINUTES						
SESSION NAME	GRADE 3	GRADE 4	GRADE 5	GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8
ELA SESSION 1	75	90	90	90	90	90
MATH SESSION 1	75	75	75	75	75	75
ELA SESSION 2	75	75	75	75	75	75
MATH SESSION 2	75	75	75	75	75	75
ELA SESSION 3	60	75	75	75	75	75
MATH SESSION 3	75	75	75	75	75	75

PAPER TEST SCHEDULE: APRIL 25–29

TIME ALLOWED IN MINUTES							
DATE	SESSION NAME	GRADE 3	GRADE 4	GRADE 5	GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8
APRIL 25	ELA SESSION 1	75	90	90	90	90	90
	MATH SESSION 1	75	75	75	75	75	75
APRIL 26	ELA SESSION 2	75	75	75	75	75	75
	MATH SESSION 2	75	75	75	75	75	75
APRIL 27	ELA SESSION 3	60	75	75	75	75	75
	MATH SESSION 3	75	75	75	75	75	75
APRIL 28	SCIENCE MULTIPLE CHOICE	60	60	60	60	60	60
	SCIENCE SHORT ANSWER*	—	30	—	—	—	30
	SCIENCE TASK	30	30	30	30	30	30

*Grades 4 and 8 will have an additional 30 minute short answer portion of the science test to complete.

3. TEST RESULTS

Schools and school systems will receive individual student Spring 2016 LEAP results for science in June and for ELA and math by late July. Each school system will decide how to share this information with teachers, parents, and students.

As in prior years, the LDOE will produce an individual student score report for ELA, math, and science. The ELA, math, and science reports will be similar to the reports produced for the 2015 tests. You can view copies of the ELA and math reports in the Family Support Toolbox on the Department's website here: <http://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/family-support-toolbox>

4. SOCIAL STUDIES FIELD TEST

In order to update the social studies LEAP test to the current social studies grade-level expectations, this spring some students will participate in a field test. Students will not receive a score report for their performance on the field test, but the results will be used to design the test that students will take next year.

SOCIAL STUDIES QUICK FACTS

- » School systems determined which schools and grades would participate in the field test.
- » Grades 3-4 have the option to take the field test online or on paper; grades 5-8 are online only.
- » The testing window for participating schools is May 9-20.
- » The field test includes two sessions, with session one taking 40 minutes and session two 30 minutes. The social studies field test is strictly timed, and no additional time is permitted except for students who have a documented extended time accommodation.

PREPARE FOR THE TEST

5. KNOW WHAT YOUR CHILD IS LEARNING

To find out the learning expectations for your child's grade level in each subject, take a look at Louisiana's content standards at <http://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/academic-standards>, which gives descriptions of the skills and knowledge your child is expected to gain every year.

You can also see samples of test questions and student work in math, science, and social studies by visiting the Department's website here: <http://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/released-and-sample-test-items>

Sample ELA test questions and student work from last year's test can be found here: <https://prc.parcconline.org/assessments/parcc-released-items>

By understanding what your child should know and be able to do this year, you will be better positioned to help your child connect the dots between what he or she is learning and the test. You can also reach out to louisianastandards@la.gov with questions or for additional support.

6. PRACTICE TESTS

The Department released practice tests for ELA and math in grades 3-8, including versions for students with special needs, on its website: <http://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/practice-tests>

These practice tests will help you better understand how the test is aligned to classroom work, and see the types of reading, math, and writing questions your child will be answering. You may want to walk through the test with your child to help familiarize him or her with the test format and features, and answer any questions he or she might have.

For more information about the LEAP tests, talk to your child's principal or teacher, or email the Department at assessment@la.gov.
