

# Assessment-Ready Schools

It's time to re-define assessment readiness for Delaware students. Research shows that traditional test prep routines don't lead to higher scores. Even worse, quick-crash approaches often cause more work for educators and increased test anxiety for students.

Instead of test prep, focus on evidence-based practices that occur throughout year-long instruction. Assessment readiness is a marathon that Delaware schools are prepared to win.

## ✗ Outdated Test Prep

- ✗ Replaces curricula with test prep materials.
- ✗ Works on six weeks of mini practice.
- ✗ Tells students, "You are going to need to know this for the test."
- ✗ Causes more work for school staff.
- ✗ Increases student anxiety.
- ✗ Teaches test format and strategies rather than deep lessons on content.
- ✗ Gives families test prep packets to work on at home.

**Toolkit:  
Proactive Readiness**  
PDMS #32286

**Toolkit:  
Relieving Stress**  
PDMS #32287

**Toolkit: Establishing  
a Firm Foundation**  
PDMS #32284

**Toolkit: Family and  
Community Communication**  
PDMS #32285

## Assessment Ready

### Banners

Schools will receive assessment-ready banners once 75% of their classroom teachers complete a minimum of one content area in each toolkit.  
Principal/designee: Email assurances to [assessment.ready@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:assessment.ready@doe.k12.de.us).

## Evidence-based Strategies

- ✓ Helps students more deeply understand the content being tested.
- ✓ Teaches higher-order cognitive strategies so students learn more and better retain information in the long term.
- ✓ Focuses on reducing student stress and helping students understand who they are as test takers.
- ✓ Provides one full-length practice test so students tackle test anxiety and become "test wise."
- ✓ Communicates with families around the test's purpose and use, and how results will benefit students.