

Delaware System of Student Assessments (DeSSA)
Test Administration Policy 2025-2026

“All LEAs shall administer all applicable, required components of the DeSSA, including field test administrations.” [Title 14, 101 State Assessment System, Section 2.2](#)

DeSSA ELA/Literacy and Mathematics Summative: Grades 3–8

DeSSA Social Studies Through-Year System: Grades 4-8

DeSSA Social Studies Summative: Grade 11

Business rule: Students assigned to these specific grades, including those repeating the grade, will be assessed in each of these content areas at their current grade in the indicated window.

DeSSA-ALT ELA/Literacy and Mathematics: Grades 3-8, 11

Business rule: Students with disabilities whom the IEP Team has found eligible for the alternate assessment, assigned to grades 3-8 and 11 for ELA and Math, including those repeating the grade, will be assessed in the content area at their current grade or course. All students are required to participate in both the fall and spring administration and be assessed on at least 50% of the blueprint in each window, covering 100% by the close of the spring window.

DeSSA-ALT Science Summative: Grades 5, 8, 10

Business rule: Students with disabilities whom the IEP Team has found eligible for the alternate assessment, assigned to these specific grades, including those repeating the grade, will be assessed in each of these content areas at their current grade in the indicated window.

DeSSA Science Summative: Grades 5, 8, High School Biology

Business rule: Students assigned to grades 5, 8, and a high school biology* course, including those repeating the grade, will be assessed in this content area at their current grade or course.

Students taking Advanced Placement Biology who have taken a separate biology course as a pre-requisite for AP are **NOT expected to take the assessment. Students in the pre-requisite biology course should take the assessment.*

DeSSA ACCESS (Multilingual Learners): Grades K-12

Business rule: Students identified as MLLs, assigned to grades K-12, including those repeating the grade, will be assessed in their current grade.

DeSSA SAT ELA/Math/Essay: Grade 11

Business Rule: Students assigned to grade 11 will take the SAT School Day. Any student repeating grade 11 will not be required to retest if they have taken the Delaware SAT School Day previously.

Students assigned to grade 12 who have not previously taken the Delaware SAT School Day are eligible to take the assessment. DTCs shall request this test delivery to such students through a Helpdesk ticket to the Office of Assessment and Accountability.

For Accountability Reporting, a student's 12th grade performance on the SAT School Day is **NOT** included in either the participation rate or results.

For all DeSSA Assessments: Students who skip or repeat a grade

Business rule: If a student skips any grade 3-8, the student will not complete any assessments for the grade skipped. Students skipping a grade will not be included in the participation rate calculation or results for either State Summary, Accountability, or Federal Reporting.

Business rule: If a student repeats any grade, the student will be assessed for the grade repeated in each of these content areas at their current grade. For all assessments, students who repeat a grade will be counted as part of the participation rate and their results will be included for the State Summary. For Accountability Reporting, repeaters' performance on the second administration are **NOT** included in either the participation rate or results.