

Delaware System of Student Assessments (DeSSA)

Assessment Participation

2025-2026 School Year

In order to ensure consistent policies across reporting systems, the Department of Education has established the following rules to determine which students are expected to take statewide assessment(s), and which students are counted as a participant in statewide assessment(s).

- Any student enrolled in a Delaware public school for an entire testing window or up to the last two weeks of testing (for students transferring from out of state) are expected to participate in testing.
- Homebound students will test with a paper/pencil version of the test administered by a trained school test administrator (except for DeSSA-Alt students).
- If students have a valid exemption for any DeSSA assessments, then they will not be included in the participation calculation.
- Schools must submit documentation to support their request for exemption, if applicable.
- Nonpublic school students, both home school and private, are prohibited from taking any DeSSA assessment. Students must be enrolled in a public district/school to receive such services.

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

Participant: A student counts as a participant when at least one item is answered on each portion (CAT and PT) of the test and the student receives a valid score. A student who only logs in and answers at least one item in one part of the test (CAT or PT, not both) is a non-participant.

DeSSA ACCESS: Grades K-12

Participant: A student counts as a participant when they answer at least one item in each domain and the student receives a valid score. Students who are enrolled in 5th year and beyond but have not graduated or received a certificate should participate in statewide assessments.

DeSSA-ALT ELA/Math: Grades 3-8, 11

DeSSA-ALT Science: Grades 5, 8, 10

DeSSA Science: Grades 5, 8, HS Biology

DeSSA Social Studies: Grade 11

Participant: A student counts as a participant when at least one item (one testlet for DeSSA-Alt students) is answered on the assessment and the student receives a valid score.

DeSSA SAT EBRW/Math/Essay: Grade 11

Participant: A student counts as a participant when enrolled during the administration of the SAT (School Day) and answers at least one item in each section (EBRW, Math, and Essay) and receives a valid score. A student who only logs in and answers in one or two parts of the test (e.g. EBRW and Essay, but not Math) is a non-participant.

A student in 12th grade who has not taken the School Day SAT is eligible to do so. Students in 12th grade who receive a valid score will not count for LEA participation or in accountability ratings. District Test Coordinators should contact the Office of Assessment and Accountability through the Department of Education's Helpdesk for registration information.

DeSSA Through Year Social Studies: Grades 4-8

Participant: A student counts as a participant and receives a valid score when at least one item is answered in each eligible administration and the student receives a valid score at the end of the year.

- If a student participates in all eligible administrations, the student receives an end of year performance level based on the number of items correct across all administrations.
- If a student does not participate in all eligible administrations, the student does not receive an end of year performance level or credit for participation.