

What kind of score will my child receive?

The Delaware English language arts (ELA) assessments are written to address ELA content (knowledge) and practice (skill) specified in the state's content standards. Student scores on the statewide assessment reliably reflect a student's ability to use reading, writing, listening, and speaking in literary and informational contexts at the appropriate grade level. Students receive a scale score converted to a proficiency score of 1–4, where 1=well below, 2=below, 3=proficient, and 4=above proficient.

How will I know my child's score?

Families will receive a score report for each child who took the test. The report will explain how the student performed on the test and how to interpret the scores. The report will include a link to a guide for the related grade (previous and next year's expected content).

What will the school do with my child's score?

As with all statewide assessments, teachers will use the ELA assessment score as one of many measures to determine your child's progress in ELA.

Where can I get more information on Delaware's ELA assessment?

You can visit the Delaware Department of Education's assessment website at <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/Page/3815> or contact the Office of Assessment at 302-857-3391.

Where can I get more information on Delaware's ELA Standards?

For more information about the Delaware ELA standards, visit <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/domain/374> and <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/Page/2424>

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A family guide to Delaware's assessment program for

ELA



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English Language Arts Assessment

A family's guide to Delaware's
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for ELA



What is the Delaware English language arts assessment?

Delaware's state test is aligned to the English language arts (ELA) standards. This assessment asks students to demonstrate their progress toward mastery of the ELA standards.

The term *assessment* in education refers to any check of student performance—from an in-class quiz to an end-of-year test. Regular assessments are an important part of understanding how and what students are learning in the classroom. Teachers use classroom assessments information to tailor each student's instruction. State assessment provides information that can help tailor curricular and instructional decisions at the district and state levels.



What are the Delaware English language arts standards?

The Delaware ELA K-12 standards tell teachers what students need to learn in each grade. These standards address the content knowledge and skills for productive reading, writing, listening, and speaking. These ELA standards help students to read as well as demonstrate their research and writing skills using all genres like informational, literary, essays, poetry, and more to clearly communicate ideas.

How does the new test differ from previous ones?

The new ELA assessments are more rigorous in assessing analytical thinking skills. The new assessments include tasks in addition to more familiar test question types, such as multiple-choice questions. For example, a student will be asked to demonstrate understanding of provided information in sources by analyzing a document and answering multiple-choice and short-answer questions that test more than just factual knowledge. Through the test, students will be able to demonstrate their skills and knowledge of the concepts in the state standards. The continued focus on higher-order analytical thinking skills better prepared students for their chosen college and career.

How long are the tests?

The ELA assessments are given to students in grades 3-8 at the end of the year after content has been instructed. The tests are designed so that most students will finish them in about two hours; however, the tests are untimed, so students may have more time as needed.

What is included on the test?

The tests include individual questions as well as groups of questions that together assess a broad concept. The tests focus on concepts learned and practiced during the year.



How will my student know how to complete the online test?

Training tests are available online for students and teachers to familiarize themselves with the online testing system. These training tests allow users to practice tools, answer questions, and navigate through a test. Training and practice tests can be accessed at [DeSSA ELA Portal](https://de.ssa.edu/ela-portal/) or <https://smarterbalanced.org/our-system/students-and-families/samples/>