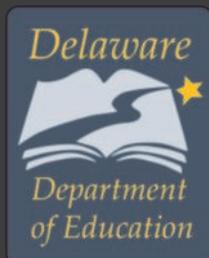


Smarter assessments



www.DelExcels.org



Preparing Delaware's children for success

New Standards: Your child reads at a fourth-grade level. But what does that mean? Until now, standards have differed across states. A fourth-grade level in one state may be a third-grade level in another state or a fifth-grade level in a third state. All students deserve an education that prepares them for their next step in life after graduation—whether that's going on to postsecondary education or starting a career. Parents and students deserve to know their schools are truly preparing students for success in the next stage of their lives. Delaware, along with more than 40 states and territories, voluntarily adopted the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and mathematics because we understand the necessity of having consistent standards. Curricula and lesson designs remain local decisions. Districts, schools and teachers still decide *how* to teach. The standards just provide a consistent expectation of *what* children should know and be able to do at every grade level to ensure similar educational opportunities.

New Assessments: Only by measuring those consistent standards with rigorous assessments can parents know for sure how their children are doing in school and how they really compare with other students. With standards fully implemented this year, Delaware is transitioning to a new assessment system (Smarter Assessments) for English language arts and mathematics for 2014-15. This assessment system will give parents and students accurate information about whether students are on track to graduate high school ready for college and the workplace. Delaware partnered with states across the nation to develop this new assessment system, which provides educators with multiple resources to assess student progress:

- **Summative:** End-of-the-year college and career readiness assessments provide a clear understanding of how well students are prepared. These assessments include a computer-adaptive test (CAT) as well as a performance task section, which measures deeper learning with scenario-based tasks. These real world applications of knowledge combine with the CAT to generate an overall score.
- **Interim:** These assessments can be used throughout the year by educators to see how students are progressing. Teachers can match assessments with the scope and sequence of their lessons and review student responses to inform future/subsequent instruction.
- **Formative resources:** Educators have access to a digital library of tools and materials for classroom instruction. These resources are embedded with formative assessments to enable teachers to monitor the progress of their students throughout instruction.

Parent tips:

When talking to your child's teacher, try to keep the conversation focused on the most important topics that relate to your child. This means asking the teacher how your child is performing based on grade-level standards and expectations.

Also, ask to see a sample of your child's work and compare them to some of the Common Core resources available nationally, such as at

www.achievethecore.org.

Also, feel free to bring those samples to your child's teacher and ask the teacher to explain how the samples are used in the classroom.

This information will enable you to make important adjustments at home that can help your child achieve success in the classroom.

Smarter assessments

Better assessing student knowledge, application

The Common Core State Standards require deeper thinking and application to better assess student understanding and preparation. The new assessments reflect that change.

New Baseline:

As with any new test, a new baseline will need to be established to determine if a student is ready academically for college or career. Previous state assessments were not designed to do this.

The scores will be lower for many students because the content and tests are more rigorous.

These lower scores do not mean that our schools, students or teachers are doing worse. It does mean that we have some work to do in education to ensure that students are better prepared after they graduate.

Want to learn more? Check out the parent guides and other resources available at www.DelExcels.org.

DCAS-Like

7A

Which expression is equivalent to 1,000,000?

- A. 10^3
- B. 10^4
- C. 10^5
- D. 10^6

Next-Generation

7B

Complete the number sentences below.

- a. $\underline{\hspace{1cm}} \times 10^2 = 2,500$
- b. $\underline{\hspace{1cm}} \div 10^3 = 0.016$
- c. $3.3 \times \underline{\hspace{1cm}} = 33,000$

Write the missing power of ten to make each number sentence true.

- d. $78 \times \underline{\hspace{1cm}} = 78,000$
- e. $0.34 \times \underline{\hspace{1cm}} = 34$
- f. $512 \div \underline{\hspace{1cm}} = 0.512$

What's next? The Smarter Assessments will be field tested in some Delaware schools in March 2014. The first administration of the Smarter summative assessments (ELA and mathematics) will be in Spring 2015 for grades 3 to 8 and 11. Parents will receive score reports in Summer 2015. The state will continue to administer DCAS science and social studies tests in the 2014-2015 school year.