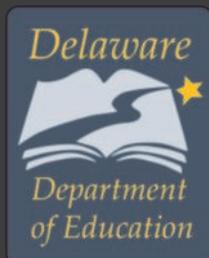


# Smarter assessments



[www.DelExcels.org](http://www.DelExcels.org)



## Preparing Delaware's children for success

**State 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.

**Aligned 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, Delaware is transitioned to the Smarter Assessment for English language arts and mathematics. This assessment gives 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 these assessments, which provide 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](http://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.

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.  $512 \div \underline{\hspace{1cm}} = 0.512$

Want to learn more? Check out the parent guides and other resources available at [www.DelExcels.org](http://www.DelExcels.org).

**What's next?** The Smarter Assessments (ELA and mathematics) are held each spring in grades 3 to 8. Delaware educators can access scores within three weeks of the test being submitted for scoring. During the summer, families receive score reports and family guides for assisting students at home. Delaware continues to administer DCAS science and social studies.