



## OVERVIEW

- All Delaware children deserve an education that will allow them to succeed in life. That's why Delaware has been a leader in raising our academic standards; academic standards are learning goals for what students should know and be able to do at the end of each grade level. Through these higher standards, we are helping all of our students graduate from high school more prepared for college and careers.
- Delaware educators have been implementing these standards, developed in collaboration with teachers, administrators and experts, for the last few years. Delaware's Smarter Assessment in English language arts and mathematics is designed to measure students' progress in mastering those standards. The test, which gives educators results within three weeks, serves as an early warning indicator that measures whether students are on track for success in college and careers and if a student needs extra supports.
- Our teachers have worked hard to ensure that classroom work is aligned to these learning goals, and therefore the test is a true reflection of what teachers are prioritizing and students are learning every day.

## MORE ABOUT THE ASSESSMENT

- Smarter Assessment, an online assessment system, replaced the Delaware Comprehensive Assessment System (DCAS) reading and mathematics tests. Educators from Delaware and around the country helped create and improve the new assessments.
- The tests were designed so all students, including those who are learning English or have special needs, can demonstrate what they know and can do.
- The test replaces the traditional multiple choice format with more thoughtful questions that provide opportunities for students to come up with their own answers, show their work and explain their thinking. The assessments include real-life performance tasks requiring a child to apply knowledge and skills across multiple content standards to increase critical thinking abilities.
- For English language arts, students are asked to read more complex literary and informational texts, evidence from the texts to answer questions, make inferences and, depending on the grade, present argumentative essays. In mathematics, students perform more multi-step problems with application to real- world situations and explain how they achieved their answers.
- If your child is an English language learner or has any special needs, such as visual, auditory or physical access requirements, the Smarter Assessment suite of accessibility tools and accommodation resources -- such as Braille, closed captioning, and embedded glossaries in 10 languages and four dialects -- allows your child to capably demonstrate his or her knowledge and skills.
- Find more information, including a link to a practice test, at [www.delexcels.org](http://www.delexcels.org).