



**ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOLS**  
**FIRST CHOICE FOR FAMILIES**

October 20, 2021

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Thank you for your continued partnership in your child's education. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the North Carolina State Testing Program requirements as well as the Orange County Schools local assessments for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Annual Testing Program has been operational since the 1970s, and to date the State Board of Education (SBE) has not allowed any student to opt out of required state testing. The only exceptions granted have been for a limited number of students who met certain eligibility requirements or who had extenuating circumstances primarily related to a significant medical emergency or condition and were unable to participate in a specific test administration.

Because of state and federal laws, all students in North Carolina (including students with disabilities) are required to participate in the State Testing Program. All annual assessments of student achievement adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to [G.S. 115C-174.11\(c\)\(1\)](#) or other applicable law and all final exams for courses will be administered within the final ten instructional days of the school year for year-long courses and within the final five instructional days of the semester for semester courses.

State policy requires schools to use end-of-course (EOC) tests as "at least twenty percent (20%) of the student's final grade." As such, a student's grade for a subject or for a course and overall grade-point-average calculation may be negatively impacted by not taking the state tests. How end-of-grade (EOG) test scores are used in grades 3–8 is a local decision.

Please know that Orange County Schools is working to adhere to state and federal guidelines that address the educational needs of all children. The attached table lists the assessments by state and local requirement. The table will provide you information about subjects assessed, purpose of the assessments, amount of time to complete the assessment and the procedures for disseminating results.

For further information or questions, please contact the Office of Testing and Accountability for Orange County Schools at (919) 245-4004 or Ms. Crystal Vaught, Director of Testing and Accountability at [crystal.vaught@orange.k12.nc.us](mailto:crystal.vaught@orange.k12.nc.us).

Respectfully,

Dr. Kathleen A. Dawson  
Deputy Superintendent

**State Mandated Tests  
2021-22 School Year (Summer, Fall, Spring)**

Test Name	Test Purpose/Type	Test Subject	Grade Level(s)	Testing Window	Time Allotted
mClass (DIBELS 8th Edition)	Formative/Diagnostic	ELA/Reading	K–3	Locally determined	Unique to each individual student
Beginning-of-Grade 3 Test	Summative EOG Grade 3 given at beginning of Grade 3 to identify students who may need additional support to meet Read to Achieve	Reading	3	Begins on the 11th day of the school year and continues through the 15th day.	90 minutes
End-of-Grade (EOG) Tests	Summative tests for all students in membership at the specific grade	Reading, Math, and Science	Reading: 3–8 Math: 3–8 Science: 5 and 8	Final 10 instructional days of the school year	120 minutes
End-of-Grade (EOG) Reading Retest-Grade 3 Only	Requirement of G.S.§115C-83.6 (a) (Read to Achieve) summative reading assessment	Reading	Only for grade 3 students who have not satisfied the requirements of the Read to Achieve law (G.S. §115C-83.7)	Final 10 instructional days of the school year	120 minutes
Read to Achieve Test for Grade 3	Requirement of G.S.§115C-83.7(b) (3) (Read to Achieve) Alternative Assessment of reading comprehension approved by the State Board of Education	Reading	Only for grade 3 or grade 4 students who have not satisfied the requirements of the Read to Achieve law (G.S. §115C-83.7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer 2021: At the conclusion of reading camp</li> <li>• Fall 2021: Schools offering a 3/4 transitional or 4th grade accelerated class may make the local decision to administer by November 1, 2021</li> <li>• Spring 2022: Final 10 instructional days of the school year</li> </ul>	120 minutes

End-of-Course (EOC) Tests	Summative tests for students enrolled for credit in the course	NC Math 1, NC Math 3, English II, and Biology	9–12 (North Carolina EOC assessments are administered at the end of the course for Biology, English II, NC Math 1, and NC Math 3. 16 N.C. Admin. Code 06D .0309 specifies that “students who are enrolled for credit in courses in which EOC assessments are required shall take the appropriate EOC assessment at the completion of the course.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final 5 instructional days of the semester</li> <li>• Final 10 instructional days of yearlong course</li> </ul>	NC Math 1: 180 minutes NC Math 3: 180 minutes English II: 150 minutes Biology: 120 minutes
NCEXTEND1 Alternate Assessments for End-of-Grade <b>and</b> End-of-Course Tests	Alternate Assessments based on Alternate Academic Achievement Standards	Reading, Math, and Science	Reading: 3–8, and 10 Math: 3–8, and 10 Science: 5, 8 and 10	Final 10 instructional days of the school year	Unique to each individual student
W–APT (Kindergarten only) <b>or</b> WIDA Screener (Grades 1–12)	State-designated English Learner (EL) proficiency identification test	Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing	K–12	W-APT/WIDA Screener within 30 days of initial enrollment	Kindergarten: 60 minutes Grades 1–12: 70 minutes
ACCESS for ELLs (Grades 1–12) <b>or</b> Alternate ACCESS for ELLs (Grades K–12)	State-designated English Learner (EL) proficiency test	Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing	1–12	January 24–March 11, 2022	ACCESS for ELLs ≈ up to 190 minutes depending on writing tier placement Alternate ACCESS ≈ up to 210 minutes depending on writing tier placement
PreACT® <b>or</b> College and Career Readiness Alternate Assessment (CCRAA) to the PreACT	College/Career Exploration/Readiness	English, Math, Reading, and Science	10	October 11, 2021–May 13, 2022	PreACT: 130 minutes CCRAA: 150 minutes

ACT® WorkKeys—Standard and Accommodated Administrations	College and Career Skills Assessment	Applied Math, Workplace Documents, and Graphic Literacy	CTE Concentrators	Fall: November 15–December 10, 2021 and Spring: February 22–May 6, 2022	165 minutes
ACT® or College and Career Readiness Alternate Assessment (CCRAA) or NCEXTEND1 Alternate Assessment	College/Career Readiness Assessment	English, Math, Reading, and Science	11	ACT: Spring CCRAA: Spring NCEXTEND1: Spring	ACT: 175 minutes CCRAA: 150 minutes NCEXTEND1: Unique to each individual student
CTE State Assessment (CTESA) Proof of Learning (POL)	Summative/post-assessment (US Dept. Ed., Perkins V Program Quality Indicator)	CTE	9–12	Final 5 instructional days of the semester or final 10 instructional days of the school year (yearlong courses)	120 minutes
CTE Performance-based Measurement (PBM) Proof of Learning (POL)	Summative/Performance (US Dept. Ed., Perkins V Program Quality Indicator)	CTE	9–12	Students work, supervised, <b>all semester</b> and turn in PBM on date determined by instructor.	Does not impact the testing window
CTE Credential Proof of Learning (POL)	Summative/Vendor defined (US Dept. Ed., Perkins V Program Quality Indicator)	CTE	9–12	Students take credentials, at any point during the semester, when they are ready to be assessed.	Does not impact the testing window
CTE Local Proof of Learning (POL)	Summative/post-assessment OR Performance (US Dept. Ed., Perkins V Program Quality Indicator)	CTE	9–12	Students take assessment, supervised work, or credential, at any point during the semester, when they are ready to be assessed.	Does not impact the testing window
According to 16 NCAC 06D .0307, "(g) LEAs shall, at the beginning of each school year, provide information to students and parents or guardians advising them of the districtwide and State-mandated tests that students will be required to take during that school year. In addition, LEAs shall advise students and parents or guardians of the dates the tests will be administered and how the results from the tests will be used. Also, information provided to parents shall include whether the State Board of Education or the local board of education requires the test(s). (h) LEAs shall report scores resulting from the administration State-mandated tests from the Annual Testing Program to students and parents or guardians no later than 30 days after the test is administered and along with available score interpretation information within 30 days from receipt of the scores and interpretive documentation from the NCDPI."					

**Local Mandated Tests  
2021-22 School Year (Summer, Fall, Spring)**

Test Name	Test Purpose/Type	Test Subject	Grade Level(s)	Testing Window	Time Allotted
NC Check Ins	The purpose of NC Check-Ins is to provide a reliable estimate of students' current performance on the selected sub-set of content standards. NC Check-Ins serve as an early indicator of a student's level of preparedness for the EOG summative test.	Reading Math NC Math 1 Science Biology	3-8 3-8 8th Grade/High School 5th and 8th High School	End of 1st Nine Weeks, End of 2nd Nine Weeks, End of 3rd Nine Weeks	Approximately 90 minutes; However, students have as much time as needed
Exact Path	Diagnostic for missing skills needed for mastery of grade level standards	Math, Reading, Language Arts	Optional: 3rd - 5th Mandatory: 6-12	Beginning of the Year, Middle of the Year, End of the Year	Approximately 75-90 minutes
AIMSweb	Universal Screener	Literacy Math	4th - 8th K-8th	Beginning of the Year (Aug. 2 - Sept. 17), Middle of the Year (Dec. 1 - Jan. 19), End of the Year (April 4 - May 6)	Approximately 60-90 minutes
CoGAT	Cognitive Ability Test	Verbal and Non-verbal Reasoning Skills	2nd grade	Beginning of March	Approximately 90 minutes