

FACTS ABOUT 3-8 NYS ASSESSMENTS

Walkill Central School District

OPEN HOUSE

2016-2017

GOAL FOR TONIGHT

To provide you with
information regarding the 3-8
NYS Assessments

3-8 ASSESSMENT FACTS-LAWS

- The State adopted more rigorous learning standards in 2010 to help ensure that students graduate ready to handle college coursework and 21st century careers. We began administering tests aligned to these higher standards in 2013.
- The annual tests in ELA and Math for students in grades 3-8 are federally required once a year.
- State law forbids using students performance on elementary and middle level tests as the sole or primary basis for students placement or promotion decisions.

3-8 ASSESSMENT FACTS-STUDENTS

- The annual grades 3-8 ELA and Math test are only one measure of students performance.
- The questions require students to apply their knowledge and explain their reasoning. Students spend time reading complex texts, writing well-reasoned responses, and solving real-world problems, all of which are necessary skills to practice and master to succeed in college and careers.
- The new tests measure student progress against the new, more challenging standards.

3-8 ASSESSMENT FACTS-PARENTS

- Parents have the right to know whether their children are gaining the knowledge and skills they need to succeed beyond high school.
- Results are used to identify where a child excels and can be challenged to go deeper into the subject matter, or where he or she needs extra support or practice.
- The results provide objective information about your child's progress compared to other students, school districts and the state.
- Whether they want to go to college or straight into the workplace, students need to be able to think critically and solve complex problems. With these tools, students have more choices about their futures and can make the most of their opportunities.

WHY ARE THEY GIVEN?

They serve as an 'academic checkup' to make sure your child is on track for the next grade level.

They measure progress over time so you see your child's year-to-year performance.

They provide a deeper level of information by pinpointing what skills your child has mastered and what skills he or she is still developing.

Focus on the more rigorous college and career readiness state standards that are guiding instruction in ELA and math

WHY ARE THEY GIVEN?

Measure real-world skills

Require students to explain their answers, describe and defend their reasoning

They measure:

- Problem solving
- Writing
- Critical thinking

WHY ARE THEY GIVEN?

- Results from the annual assessments highlight achievement gaps among different students populations that need to be addressed to ensure that all students receive a high-quality education.
- Without widespread participation in the tests, school and district leaders cannot accurately provide the support and necessary resources to the students who need it.

HOW DO WE MEASURE STUDENTS' PROGRESS?

In addition to the NYS 3-8 assessments, other important sources that inform instruction may include:

- STAR Assessments (three times a year)
- District Benchmark Assessments given twice a year for ELA and Math (three for MS)
- Unit tests and chapter tests
- Projects, graphic organizers and anecdotal notes
- Essays
- Group collaborations
- Homework

These various forms of data are important to give an overall picture of your child's academic achievement.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How will my child's score be used?

Scores will be used to tailor instruction to students and measure how well schools, districts, and the state are progressing with the higher level learning standards.

State law forbids using students performance on elementary and middle level tests as the sole or primary basis for students placement or promotion decisions.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do state tests have to be stressful or overwhelming for students?

No. Learning rigorous content can be challenging – and engaging – for our students.

The best way to prevent those challenges from turning into stress for our children is for the adults in their lives to be supportive and affirming.

Assessments are intended to be only a moment in time for students to demonstrate what they know and can do, so that adults can determine how to help students achieve even more.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the impact of the new regulations regarding "untimed" testing?

The exams have a suggested time allotment, which varies according to grade and exam. Students are able to take as much time for the written exams as they need to complete them. In the event a student needs more than the suggested time he/she may continue the written exam in his/her current setting or in an alternate location with a different proctor.

PERSPECTIVES ON THE GRADE 3-8 NYS ASSESSMENTS



NEXT STEPS

- A new test company (Questar) has been selected to develop future Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests.
- Teachers are more involved in the development and review of these tests to ensure that they closely correspond with activities in the classroom. Wallkill Central School District sent several teachers to Saratoga this year to review assessment passages!

NEXT STEPS

- In 2015, the State legislature provided additional funding to make improvements to the testing program. These include the public release of test questions. Grade 3-8 teachers were given time to review all test questions released.
- The State is exploring computer-based testing platforms. These platforms will eventually reduce the amount of time students spend on these tests and will provide results quickly

NEXT STEPS

- Walkkill Central School District provides numerous professional development opportunities for our teachers to help them continue the transition to the higher learning standards and strengthen instruction
- This summer, the State released the scores from the 2016 3-8 ELA and Math Tests. This was the fourth year that students took assessments aligned to the more rigorous common and career readiness learning standards

NEXT STEPS

- The NY State Education Department is exploring changes in the current state standards to ensure they are age appropriate.
- [NYS Draft Learning Standards](#)
- Public Comments are being accepted through November 4th

WHEN YOUR CHILD REACHES HIGH SCHOOL

- All students are required to take Common Core Regents Exams to obtain their High School Diploma
- SATs are now Common Core aligned
- It is vital that we prepare our students at all grade levels to meet and exceed these high expectations

2016 MATH 3-8 STATE ASSESSMENT
Percent of Students Scoring Level 3 and 4

Grade(s)	Rank	Wallkill	New Paltz	Onteora	Saugerties	Rondout Valley	Kingston	Highland	Ellenville
3 - 8	2	41%	35%	44%	28%	32%	31%	29%	18%
3 - 6	1	47%	34%	42%	30%	34%	35%	34%	22%
7 - 8	4	25%	37%	46%	21%	27%	16%	13%	6%
3	1	60%	37%	46%	32%	40%	43%	43%	16%
4	1	41%	34%	40%	28%	40%	35%	37%	22%
5	1	44%	38%	38%	29%	23%	30%	29%	24%
6	1	43%	24%	38%	31%	33%	29%	21%	26%
7	3	35%	44%	49%	21%	26%	22%	17%	10%
8	5	8%	26%	43%	22%	29%	5%	6%	0%

RANK #1

2016 ELA 3-8 STATE ASSESSMENT
Percent of Students Scoring Level 3 and 4

Grade(s)	Rank	Wallkill	New Paltz	Onteora	Saugerties	Rondout Valley	Kingston	Highland	Ellenville
3 - 8	2	32%	35%	32%	29%	28%	23%	31%	19%
3 - 6	2	32%	39%	29%	24%	26%	22%	29%	17%
7 - 8	3	33%	28%	35%	24%	31%	23%	35%	22%
3	1	46%	38%	34%	43%	30%	26%	41%	15%
4	2	34%	54%	18%	27%	32%	21%	33%	20%
5	4	22%	38%	35%	25%	18%	21%	19%	16%
6	2	24%	21%	13%	29%	24%	21%	17%	16%
7	2	34%	29%	32%	24%	24%	19%	38%	21%
8	3	33%	27%	40%	24%	41%	28%	32%	24%

RANK #1

LEPTONDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL				
Grade(s)	2015 vs 2016		Wallkill vs Ulster County	
	2015	2016	2016	Ulster County
3 - 6	46%	53%	53%	35%
3	40%	58%	58%	40%
4	49%	33%	33%	35%
5	45%	71%	71%	32%
6	51%	57%	57%	31%

OSTRANDER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL				
Grade(s)	2015 vs 2016		Wallkill vs Ulster County	
	2015	2016	2016	Ulster County
3 - 6	39%	43%	43%	35%
3	35%	61%	61%	40%
4	32%	44%	44%	35%
5	36%	32%	32%	32%
6	51%	38%	38%	31%

PLATTEKILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL				
Grade(s)	2015 vs 2016		Wallkill vs Ulster County	
	2015	2016	2016	Ulster County
3 - 6	45%	47%	47%	35%
3	42%	62%	62%	40%
4	66%	44%	44%	35%
5	29%	42%	42%	32%
6	39%	35%	35%	31%

MIDDLE SCHOOL				
Grade(s)	2015 vs 2016		Wallkill vs Ulster County	
	2015	2016	2016	Ulster County
7 - 8	23%	25%	25%	22%
7	30%	35%	35%	27%
8	12%	8%	8%	15%

DISTRICT-WIDE				
Grade(s)	2015 vs 2016		Wallkill vs Ulster County	
	2015	2016	2016	Ulster County
3 - 8	38%	41%	41%	32%

DISTRICT-WIDE				
Grade(s)	2015 vs 2016		Wallkill vs Ulster County	
	2015	2016	2016	Ulster County
3 - 6	43%	47%	47%	35%
3	39%	60%	60%	40%
4	48%	41%	41%	35%
5	37%	44%	44%	32%
6	47%	43%	43%	31%

2016 WCSD at or ABOVE 2015 WCSD Average
2016 WCSD at or ABOVE County Average
2016 WCSD at or BELOW County Average

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LEPTONDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL				
Grade(s)	2015 vs 2016		Wallkill vs Ulster County	
	2015	2016	2016	Ulster County
3 - 6	27%	38%	38%	28%
3	20%	43%	43%	33%
4	39%	30%	30%	29%
5	21%	38%	38%	23%
6	27%	43%	43%	24%

OSTRANDER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL				
Grade(s)	2015 vs 2016		Wallkill vs Ulster County	
	2015	2016	2016	Ulster County
3 - 6	22%	29%	29%	28%
3	25%	49%	49%	33%
4	16%	33%	33%	29%
5	25%	18%	18%	23%
6	24%	20%	20%	24%

PLATTEKILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL				
Grade(s)	2015 vs 2016		Wallkill vs Ulster County	
	2015	2016	2016	Ulster County
3 - 6	21%	31%	31%	28%
3	19%	47%	47%	33%
4	26%	40%	40%	29%
5	18%	17%	17%	23%
6	22%	14%	14%	24%

MIDDLE SCHOOL				
Grade(s)	2015 vs 2016		Wallkill vs Ulster County	
	2015	2016	2016	Ulster County
7 - 8	31%	33%	33%	28%
7	28%	34%	34%	26%
8	36%	33%	33%	30%

DISTRICT-WIDE				
Grade(s)	2015 vs 2016		Wallkill vs Ulster County	
	2015	2016	2016	Ulster County
3 - 8	25%	32%	32%	28%

DISTRICT-WIDE				
Grade(s)	2015 vs 2016		Wallkill vs Ulster County	
	2015	2016	2016	Ulster County
3 - 6	23%	32%	32%	28%
3	21%	46%	46%	33%
4	27%	34%	34%	29%
5	21%	22%	22%	23%
6	24%	24%	24%	24%

2016 WCSD at or ABOVE 2015 WCSD Average
2016 WCSD at or ABOVE County Average
2016 WCSD at or BELOW County Average

RESOURCES

www.engageny.com

www.nationalpta.org