

RCS Testing Newsletter for Parents

Fall 2019

Includes Info About:

Standardized Tests
CogAt Testing
ACCESS Testing
EOG's/EOC's/NCFE's
ACT Tests
Check In's & Benchmarks
Beginning of Grade 3 Test (BOG 3)
Read to Achieve Test
Test Taking Tips
Testing Calendar

Test Taking Tips:

- ✓ Communicate regularly with your child's teacher.
- ✓ Ask what they suggest you do at home to help your child strengthen academic skills.
- ✓ Make sure your child does all of his/her homework and reading assignments which will help make sure your child is prepared for tests.
- ✓ If you are anxious about your child's test, try to keep cool around your child so that they do not become anxious as well.
- ✓ Mark down test dates on your calendar so you and your child are both aware.
- ✓ Encourage your child to do well, but don't pressure him/her. It is important for the child to stay relaxed during the test.
- ✓ Keep a positive attitude about the tests.
- ✓ Make sure your child gets enough sleep, especially on the night before the test.
- ✓ Make sure your child gets to school on time.
- ✓ Ensure your child eats a healthy breakfast on test days.

A Word From Your Testing Department. . .

Please use this newsletter to empower and inform you about testing in NC and Rockingham County Schools so that you are able to help your child reach his/her full academic potential. The information here will highlight important dates, test taking tips and general information about various tests given throughout the year.

During this school year, your child will take a variety of tests. The descriptions below will help you to understand the purpose of the tests and what the tests are designed to measure.

If you need more information, your child's teacher and principal can also help you to understand these tests.

What Is A Standardized Test?

Standardized tests provide a common measure of student performance. A standardized test contains the same set of questions and is given under the same conditions to different groups of people. The answers are scored in the same manner. These tests are designed by commercial publishers or state committees and use state curriculums as their foundation.

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Below are descriptions of some of the common assessments we administer at RCS.

READY EOG (End of Grade) Tests

The EOG Tests are designed to measure Grades 3 – 8 student performance on the goals and objectives specified by the NC State Standards. There are two parts to this test, Reading and Mathematics. Reading is assessed by having students read authentic selections and

then answer questions directly related to the selections. Math is measured by having students solve authentic math problems. Grades 5 & 8 also take a Science Test which requires students to demonstrate knowledge of important principles and

concepts, understand and interpret laboratory activities and relate scientific information to everyday situations. Most students take the standard administration of the tests; however, some may take alternate assessments based on a student's IEP, 504 or LEP plans.

READY EOC (End of Course) Tests + NC Final Exams

At the end of the semester, students in Math I, Math III, Biology and English II take a state prepared assessment. These tests are based on the NC State Curriculum Standards. EOC test scores count as part of the student's final course grade.

Many high school subjects which were once tested using state EOC test are now tested using the state MSL test as a Final Exam. Final Exam test scores count as part of the student's final course grade. The scores from these tests will be used in the teacher evaluation system.

Students in Grades 6 – 8 take a state created Social Studies and Science test which is considered a NC Final Exam.

WIDA ACCESS Test

The WIDA Online Screener Placement Test will be administered to all initially enrolled language minority students. This test functions as a screener that is used for the initial identification and English as a Second Language (ESL) program placement for students who are identified as Limited English Proficient (LEP). Every initially enrolled student identified as a language minority student by the Home Language Survey process will be assessed on the WIDA Screener to determine if he/she is identified as Limited English Proficient. ACCESS for EL's is a secure assessment given annually during the spring semester. This test is used to satisfy state and federal requirements for the annual assessment of the English language proficiency of English language learners.

NC Testing Program
Information can be found at:

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/testing/>

Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAt): The Cognitive Abilities test is administered to Grade 3 students. This test measures both general and specific reasoning abilities. The development of these abilities is influenced by the student's in-school and out-of-school experiences.

Beginning of Grade 3 ELA Test (BOG 3): This assessment of reading for all Grade 3 students is used to identify students in need of assistance in reading.

Additional Tests:

Read to Achieve Test: This assessment of reading is administered to students in Grade 3 who do not achieve a proficient score on the Grade 3 ELA End of Grade test.

K – 2 Assessments: Throughout the year, students in Grades K – 2 are assessed in English Language Arts and Math to monitor progress and to assist teachers in making instructional decisions.

Check In's/Benchmarks: The purpose of the Check In's/Benchmark tests is to familiarize students and teachers with the process and format of the EOG and EOC tests. The practice tests will inform teachers of the skills mastered and those that would require re-teaching and/or remediation.

ACT Tests:
GR 10 Pre-ACT
GR 11 ACT Test
GR 12 ACT Work Keys

Initial Testing Calendar (Dates subject to change – Updates can be found at www.rock.k12.nc.us)

Aug. 14th: Dillard Academy GR 3 BOG 3
Aug. 26th – Sept. 24th: WIDA ACCESS Screener Test
Sept. 11th: GR 3 BOG 3
Oct. 14th – Nov. 22nd: GR 10 CCRAA
Oct. 16th: High School PSAT
Oct. 28th – Nov 1st: Dillard Academy Check In's #1
Oct. 25th: GR 3 Read to Achieve Retest
Nov. 12th – 18th: GR 3 – 8, Math 1 Check In's #1
Nov. 14th: GR 10 Pre-ACT
Dec. 2nd – 13th: GR 12 ACT Work Keys
Dec. 3rd – 6th: GR 3 CogAT Test
Dec. 9th – 13th: EOC Cumulative Benchmark
Dec. 16th – 20th: ECHS EOC/NCFE Exams
Jan. 6th – 31st: Istation MOY Benchmark
Jan. 10th – 16th: GR 6-7 Science/Soc. Stu. NCFE Semester 1
Jan. 10th – 16th: HS EOC/NCFE Exams

Jan. 27th – Mar. 6th: ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS for ELL's
Feb. 3rd – 7th: GR 3 – 8, Math 1 Check In's #2
Feb. 17th – 28th: Credit by Demonstrated Mastery Test
Feb. 25th: GR 11 ACT Test
Feb. 25th – Mar. 6th: GR 11 ACT w/ Accommodations/CCRAA/EXT 1
Mar. 17th: GR 11 ACT Makeup Test
Mar. 24th – 30th: GR 3 – 8, Math 1 Check In's #3
Mar. 30th – April 10th: GR 12 ACT WorkKeys
Apr. 27th–May 1st: GR 3-8 ELA/MATH/SCI Benchmark
May 1st – 29th: Istation EOY Benchmark
May 11th – 15th: EOC Cumulative Benchmark
May 8th – 14th: ECHS EOC/NCFE Exams
May 20th – June 3rd: GR 3-11 EXT 1 Test
May 20th–June 3rd: GR 3-8 Testing Window (specific dates TBD)
May 28th – June 3rd: GR 9-12 Testing Window
May 28th: GR 3 Read to Achieve Test

