



Hickory Public Schools

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Jennifer S. Griffin, Ed.D., Superintendent

Monday, August 28th, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to the 2023-24 school year. We are excited to have students back in our building and can't wait to get this year started! In accordance with North Carolina State Board of Education Policy TEST-001, this information is provided to parents regarding the districtwide and state-mandated tests students will be required to take during the 2023-2024 school year. Some assessments are formative, providing information to instructors and given throughout the school year. Some assessments are summative and are given at the end of a unit, grading period or school year.

Students are not allowed to opt out of required state testing. NC general statutes §115C-549, 550, 557 and 558 state the tests are to be administered to those in grade levels each year "to all students enrolled or regularly attending." Because of state and federal laws, all students in North Carolina (including students with disabilities) are required to participate in the testing program.

For the 2023-24 school year, all schools will deliver state required assessments online. Please note there are a few assessments that are required to be delivered via paper/pencil. These are noted in the descriptions below where you will find information about the different state and local assessments your child will participate in this school year.

State Assessments for Grades 6-8

- End-of-Grade Tests (EOG): Students at grades 6, and 7 will take the ELA and Math EOGs during the last 10 days of the school year.
- End-of-Grade Tests (EOG): Students at grade 8 will take the ELA, Math, and Science EOGs during the last 10 days of the school year.
- Students enrolled in courses for credit where End-of-Course (EOC) tests are required, shall take the appropriate online End-of-Course test. Tests are given during the last 10 days of the academic year for traditional/yearlong courses.
- North Carolina Check-Ins for Reading: These interim assessments are aligned to the content standards for reading in grades 6-8. These will be administered up to three times during the academic year to provide immediate feedback on student understanding of the content standards.
- North Carolina Check-Ins for Math: Students in grades 6-8 will take these interim assessments three times during the academic year and these will provide feedback on student understanding of content standards.
- North Carolina Check-Ins for Science: Students in grade 8 will be administered these assessments three times during the academic year. The information gained from these assessments will be used to provide feedback on student understanding of content standards.
- North Carolina Check-Ins for NC Math 1: These interim assessments are aligned to content standards for NC Math 1. These will be administered two times during the year to provide immediate feedback on student understanding of the content standards.

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English Language Proficiency State Assessment for Grades K-12

- The WIDA Screener for Kindergarten (Kindergarten and 1st semester of 1st grade) and the WIDA Screener Online (1st grade 2nd semester - grade 12) is administered to all initially enrolled students within 30 calendar days of enrollment in which English is not their first language.
- All students identified as limited English proficient must be administered the Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners (ACCESS for ELLs) during the annual testing window. The ACCESS for ELLs assessment is an online assessment.
- The Alternate ACCESS for ELLs is an assessment of English language proficiency for students in grades 1-12 who are identified as an English Language Learner and have significant cognitive disabilities. This assessment is administered in the paper/pencil format.

State Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities for Grades 6-8

- NCEXTEND1 is an alternate assessment designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The assessment process requires students to complete performance based, multiple-choice items in the following subject areas; ELA at grades 6-8, Math at grades 6-8 and Science at grade 8. This assessment is administered in the online format.

Local Assessments

- Students are instructed on writing throughout the school year in all classes. Writing tasks will be aligned to what students are studying in class. Teachers will be able to see the progression and improvement in student writing over the school year.

See the attached test calendar for a full listing of assessments students will take for the 2023-24 school year. Please know that dates are subject to change. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to your child's principal or me.

Sincerely,
Jeff Hodakowski
Director of Testing and Accountability

2023-24 HPS Test Calendar

(Dates subject to change)

Grades 6 - 8

Date	Grade Level(s)	Test
August 28, 2023 - EOY	6-8	W-APT / WIDA Screener Initial assessment within 30 calendar days of enrollment
September 1-29, 2023	6-8	Online Tutorial
September 12-22, 2023	6-8	iReady BOY Diagnostic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Grades 6-8 • Math: Grades 6-8
October 30-Nov 8, 2023	6-8	NC Check-In #1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading @ grades 6-8 • Math @ grades 6-8 • Science @ grade 8
December 4-8, 2023	7-8	NC Check-In #1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NC Math 1
January 29-Feb 7, 2024	6-8	NC Check-In #2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading @ grades 6-8 • Math @ grades 6-8 • Science @ grade 8
January 16-26, 2024	6-8	iReady MOY Diagnostic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Grades 6-8 • Math: Grades 6-8
January 22-March 8, 2024	6-8	ACCESS for ELLs Alternate ACCESS for ELLs
March 18-28, 2024	6-8	NC Check-In #3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading @ grades 6-8 • Math @ grades 6-8 • Science @ grade 8
April 22-26, 2024	7-8	NC Check-In #2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NC Math 1
April 30-May 10, 2024	6-8	iReady EOY Diagnostic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Grades 6-8 • Math: Grades 6-8
May 17-May 31, 2024	6-8	EOG End-of-Grade Assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading @ Grades 6, 7, 8 • Math @ Grades 6, 7, 8 • Science @ Grade 8 • NCEXTEND1 (Reading Gr 6-8, Math Gr 6-8 & Science @ Grade 8) • NC Math 1 EOC