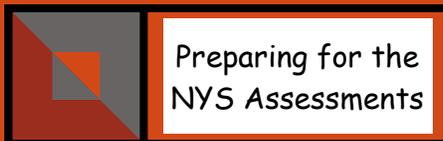


## Why is it important for my child to take these assessments?

- The assessments provide teachers with information that can be used to guide their instruction.
- The results show teachers how well students have progressed in the skills and concepts being taught in the classroom.
- Achievement gaps among different student populations can be identified.
- Without widespread participation in the tests, it is more difficult for school and district leaders to identify and provide support and resources to students who need it.



The New York State Education Department (NYSED) is making significant changes to the 2016 Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Assessments.

The changes will improve the testing experience for students and the validity of the assessments.

There will be:

- ⇒ *Greater involvement of educators in the test development process*
- ⇒ *Decrease in the number of assessment questions*
- ⇒ *A shift to untimed testing*



## Marathon Central School District



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## A Shift to Untimed Testing

NYSED received extensive feedback from educators around the State about the inability of students to work at their own pace on the Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics Tests.

As a result, beginning this spring 2016, all 3-8 ELA and Mathematics assessments are **untimed**. This change will provide students further opportunity to demonstrate what they know and can do by allowing them to work at their own pace.

In general, this means as long as students are productively working they will be allowed as much time as they need to complete the ELA and Mathematics tests.

Additionally, this change in policy may help alleviate the pressures that some students may experience as a result of taking an assessment they must complete during a limited amount of time.



## Summary of Changes



1. The Board of Regents approved a freeze on using student test scores on these exams for official evaluation purposes. For the next four years, NYS teachers will not be measured by their students' performance on the 3-8 assessments.
2. Questar Assessment, Inc. is the new test vendor, which will replace Pearson.
3. All 3-8 ELA and Mathematics assessments are **untimed**, and there will be fewer test questions on both the ELA and Mathematics assessments. This should reduce the stress students have felt in the past.
4. There will be an increase in the number of NYS teachers involved in developing the assessments to ensure they closely measure the learning happening in the classroom.
5. In 2015, the State Legislature provided new funding to make additional improvements to the testing program, which include releasing more test questions and eventually making test scores available before the end of the school year.

## TESTING DATES

**Grades 3-8**

**English Language Arts**

**Tuesday, April 5th—Thursday, April 7th**

**Grades 3-8**

**Mathematics**

**Wednesday, April 13th—Friday, April 15th**

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