



# Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

*Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education*

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**Jacob Oliva**  
Secretary

March 7, 2024

**Stacy Smith**  
Deputy  
Commissioner

Dear Parents,

**State Board of  
Education**

I hope you and your child have had a great school year so far! As we are coming up on the end of the school year, I want to remind you that a very important time in your child's academic journey is quickly approaching. Taking the annual state test is one of several important indicators educators use to measure student learning throughout the year.

**Dr. Sarah Moore**  
Stuttgart  
Chair

Students in grades 3-10 will soon begin taking the Arkansas Teaching and Learning Assessment System (ATLAS), a new statewide test that is aligned to Arkansas academic standards. Test content has been reviewed and approved by Arkansas teachers. In addition to math, English Language Arts, and science tests, students taking Algebra I, Geometry, and Biology also will take end-of-course exams to measure their knowledge on important subject matter.

**Kathy Rollins**  
Springdale  
Vice-Chair

Each of these tests is vitally important to determine how much your child has learned this last school year. Test results, which will be available this fall, will be used along with other measures to determine possible interventions, accelerated learning pathways, and other supports your child may need. Because every student deserves a high-quality education rich with learning opportunities, results also are used to help determine how well your child's school and district are performing.

**Steve Sutton**  
Marion

**Adrienne Woods**  
Rogers

**Randy Henderson**  
Blytheville

The new ATLAS test offers many accessibility and accommodation features for students who qualify for these supports, and each test is untimed. This gives all students the time and opportunity to finish all tests. You can learn more about the new test at <https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/public-school-accountability/assessment>.

**Lisa Hunter**  
White Hall

**Jeff Wood**  
Little Rock

While testing can be stressful, it is important to encourage students to do their best, to get a good night's rest, and to eat a healthy breakfast – not just on test days but throughout the school year. Your child's school counselor will have other tips and suggestions for taking tests.

**Ken Bragg**  
Sheridan

It is an exciting time in education in Arkansas! We are at the forefront of some new and exciting changes and are excited for what the future holds for Arkansas students.

**Leigh Keener**  
Little Rock

Sincerely,

Jacob Oliva  
Secretary of Education