

TESTING PROGRAMS

The Board of Education believes that standardized testing programs can provide a meaningful source of information about the curriculum and overall student achievement. The Board, therefore, authorizes a program of testing to help accomplish the following objectives:

1. to evaluate strengths and weaknesses of the current curriculum and methods of instruction,
2. to provide one means to evaluate student growth through individual, inter-district, and intradistrict comparison,
3. to provide teachers with diagnostic information which will enable them to better address the instructional needs of their students,
4. to provide a basis for longitudinal study of student achievement.

Information gained through the use of testing programs will be used to design educational opportunities for students to better meet their individual and collective needs. The Board views this purpose to be a primary function of schools.

The Board recognizes that tests provide only a limited source of information, and will, therefore, be used only in conjunction with all other information known about a student or to assist the student in improving his/her work.

Records of the results of standardized tests shall be maintained in accordance with the Board's policy on student records.

New York State Required Tests

Pupil Evaluation Program Tests (PEP)

These tests are given each year to third and sixth grade pupils in reading and mathematics, to fourth grade pupils in science, fifth grade pupils in writing, and by the end of the sixth grade in social studies. The results can be used to compare achievement of one group of pupils with another and to measure the effectiveness of new instructional materials and techniques. The tests shall also be used to make decisions about remedial instruction for pupils scoring below the statewide reference points. It shall be the responsibility of the principal to notify the parents or guardian when remedial instruction is required and of the plan for such remediation.

Preliminary Competency Tests (PCT)

These tests in reading and writing are used to determine need for remedial instruction in order for pupils to meet the competency test standard in high school. The Principal shall be responsible for notifying the student and parent(s) or guardian(s) of such student of the test results and plan for remediation.

Regents Competency Tests (RCT)

These tests are the measure of basic skills in mathematics, reading, and writing, global studies, American history and science which a student must pass in order to receive a high school diploma.

Pupils also may meet the competency test requirement by passing Regents examinations in mathematics, English, global studies, American history and science, or by having appropriate scores on College Board Scholastic Aptitude Tests or American College Tests. Special provisions are made for disabled and non-English speaking pupils.

*Other State Testing Programs**Regents Examinations*

These examinations provide a basis for evaluating the quality of learning and instruction. Students must pass these examinations, for which they have completed appropriate course work, in order to receive credit towards a Regents High School diploma.

Ref: 8 NYCRR §§100.3(b)2; 100.4(d)1; 100.5(a)4; 100.5(b)5; 100.5(c)5

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