



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

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To: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Public Schools
Principals of Public Schools
Charter, Religious, and Independent School Leaders
Regional Information Center Directors
Level 1 Primary and Secondary Project Managers

From: Angélica Infante-Green

Subject: **Embargoed** Release of 2018 Grades 3-8 Test Results

The purpose of this memorandum is to share information regarding the release of the results of the 2018 Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Tests. In June 2017, the Board of Regents voted to reduce the number of sessions of the Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics Tests from three sessions each to two. This reduction was first realized with the assessments administered in spring 2018. In order to maintain valid and reliable measurement of student achievement on the New York State Learning Standards, it was necessary to engage NYS educators certified in the content area to review the performance standards. This review took place over the summer. Given the additional analyses necessary both leading up to and following this educator review, the release of the statewide results will be delayed to late September.

Embargoed Release of Data

The 2018 Grades 3–8 ELA and Mathematics Test scores (including scale scores and performance levels) will be available through an **embargoed release the week of August 27, 2018** to authorized school and district personnel via the Tested / Not Tested verification report (SIRS Report 301 or 302) in the [Level 2 Reporting environment](#).

The following data concerning the 2018 tests will not be included in the embargoed August release, but will be delivered in conjunction with the public news release in late September:

- Individual Student Reports (ISR),
- PowerPoints with subgroup analysis,
- Test refusal analysis,
- BOCES District Superintendent Files,
- Aggregate data such as countywide and statewide results
- Information on the [NYSED Data Site](#)

School and district score results are embargoed until the statewide score release. Data under embargo may not be shared or discussed at public meetings or otherwise released to the public.

All school and district personnel must understand the details of the embargo. A data embargo is data that is shared with school and district administrators in advance of being publicly released by the Department. A data embargo is also a requirement that the data provided by the Department to each Local Education Agency (LEA) is not published in any format to anyone outside of the school officials and personnel who need to know and use the data for programmatic planning, scheduling, and other preparation for the upcoming school year until the public news release.

The embargoed release shares confidential student level information with your institution and it is shared with the understanding that it is meant to remain confidential until the public news release. By sending embargoed data the Department is placing a great deal of trust to uphold the embargo requirement as it is the only mechanism to allow school and district leaders to access the information they need prior to the public news release.

With everyone's cooperation with this embargo, the public will have equal access to the news concerning the statewide release of the Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics Test results at the same time in late September.

Implications for Annual Professional Performance Reviews (APPR)

Where necessary, these embargoed scores and ratings may be used by school and district personnel to calculate original APPR scores and ratings for educators whose Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) use the results of the Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics Tests. As a reminder, during the 2015-16 through 2018-19 school years, APPR scores and ratings that rely on the Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics Tests are to be provided to educators by September 1st *or as soon as practicable thereafter*. Impacted educators must still be provided with their Transition APPR scores and ratings, which do not rely on the Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics Tests, no later than September 1st. For additional information, please see the Department's [APPR Transition Guidance document](#).

Released Questions and Instructional Reports

As in prior years, the Department released 75 percent of the 2018 Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics Test questions that count toward student scores in early June. Once again, 100 percent of the constructed-response (open-ended) questions, as well as the scoring materials used by educators to score student responses to these questions were released. Each released multiple-choice question includes the question itself and an item map that provides the answer key and the standard measured by the question. Each released constructed-response question includes the question itself and an item map that provides the standard measured by the question. The released questions are posted on [EngageNY](#).

Also in June, the Department authorized the release of instructional reports for the 2018 Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics Tests. These secure reports can be accessed via your Regional Information Center (RIC) and/or Level 1 data center. The reports allow authorized school personnel to view, for each question that contributed to a student's score, whether the student answered the question correctly and the NYS Learning Standard measured by the question. The reports will allow for raw score performance comparisons at the student, classroom, school, district, and regional levels.

For more information, assistance with system access, or report content New York City DOE schools should contact their Field Support Lead. New York City Charter schools should email their [contact](#). All other New York State schools in all other areas of the state should contact their [Level 1 Regional Information Center](#).

If you have questions about data contained in the Student Information Repository System (SIRS) or data verification, please contact your Regional Information Center or Big 5 city school district data coordinator or the Office of Information and Reporting Services by phone at 518-474-7965 or [Datasupport](#). Questions related to Annual Professional Performance Reviews should be directed to [EducatorEval](#).

Thank you for your continued attention and dedication to this important work.