



**Daniel G. Lowengard**  
 Interim Superintendent of Schools  
 Rochester City School District  
 131 West Broad Street  
 Rochester, New York 14614  
[www.rcsdk12.org](http://www.rcsdk12.org)

March 18, 2019

Dear Rochester City School District Families:

This spring, the Rochester City School District will administer the New York State Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA), mathematics, and science assessments as follows.

Grade Level	Assessment	Testing Dates (first day in bold)
3 – 8	ELA (Computer-based - select schools)	<b>Monday, April 1</b> – Monday, April 8, 2019 <i>Each school chooses two days within the six-day window to administer this test.</i>
3 – 8	Mathematics (Computer-based - select schools)	<b>Tuesday, April 30</b> – Tuesday, May 7, 2019 <i>Each school chooses two days within the six-day window to administer this test.</i>
4 and 8 only	Science – Part I (Performance Section)	<b>Wednesday, May 22</b> – Friday, May 31, 2019 <i>Each school chooses one day within the six-day window to administer this test.</i>
4 and 8 only	Science – Part II (Written Section)	<b>Monday, June 3, 2019</b>

The assessments will continue to follow the same format as last year:

- **Fewer Test Sessions** - The ELA and math testing will take place over two days.
- **The tests continue to be untimed so students who are still working on their exams will be allowed to continue to work, within the confines of the regular school day.** Students can work at their own pace, with no set time limit for completing the assessments.
- **Test questions reviewed and written by New York State Teachers.** Current classroom teachers and other New York educators remain involved in developing the content and format of the assessments.
- **Student performance on the 2019 Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics Tests will have no employment-related consequences for teacher and principal evaluations.** Results will not be used as part of teacher or Principal evaluations. You can find more information about the [State tests](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/ei/eigen.html) on the State Education Department’s website. (<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/ei/eigen.html>).

*Release of Test Questions and Instructional Reports*

- **Test questions and instructional reports will be released before the end of the school year.** Like the past several years, the State Education Department will release 75-percent of questions from the 2019 tests and the instructional reports for educators on or around June 1. [You can view 2018 test questions on EngageNY.](https://www.engageny.org/3-8) (<https://www.engageny.org/3-8>)

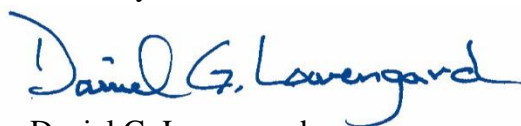
**Computer-Based Testing**

- **Computer-based State assessments.** Some districts chose to administer the 2019 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests on the computer. The computer-based test will have the same questions as the paper version but students will take the test on a computer, tablet, or Chromebook.
- **Stronger instructional tools.** The State Education Department is helping districts begin to transition to computer-based testing (CBT), which has the potential to make the assessments stronger instructional tools and will make it possible to get test results back sooner.
- **The move to CBT.** The State plans to have additional districts utilize CBT next year. The long-term plan is to have all districts using CBT for annual state tests.

For more than a decade, students have been taking annual NYS assessments. Educationally, they are one of many measures of how well our schools and students are meeting grade-level learning standards. They can be used as a tool for teachers to learn about their students' growth and help them plan instruction.

It is important for you and your children to know that these assessments do not affect their report cards or whether students advance to the next grade level. When testing time comes, please encourage your children to get a good night's sleep so that they are ready and well-prepared for their assessments. We do not want them to be worried - just to relax and do their best.

Sincerely,



Daniel G. Lowengard  
Interim Superintendent of Schools