

# WHY STATEWIDE TESTING PARTICIPATION MATTERS TO FAMILIES

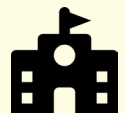
## How does taking state tests help your child?

- Testing is a great opportunity for your child to show everything they have been learning and practicing in connection with classroom instruction.
- Your child's school level of performance is determined based on the students' state testing scores, giving parents and community members an opportunity to know how the school is teaching all students.
- Testing scores are one way to evaluate your child's progress towards their personal dreams for career or college readiness goals.



## How does taking state tests help your child's school?

- It provides critical information to the district and state on how well all students in your child's school are doing so the school can be supported.
- It allows teachers and principals to identify specific needs for different groups of students, and guide them to make improvements to instruction that can help all students succeed.
- It highlights gaps in achievement, so steps can be taken to ensure all students are supported in making meaningful progress.
- It helps state policymakers and local school boards identify schools that may need more assistance or resources.



## How can you support your child?

- Help your child understand the importance of taking state tests through positive conversations and continuous support.
- Discuss with your child's teacher whether there are some accommodations that could help your child better show what they know and can do.
- Parents can build positive and enriching conversations about testing while creating excitement and confidence in their children. Telling your child things such as, "I know you can do it!" teaches them to believe in themselves and believe, "I can do it."
- Modeling stress-reducing strategies as a family can help your child cope with anxiety. Practice breathing with your child, stretching, and even closing your eyes and staying in silence for a couple of minutes.
- Tests are part of daily life for everyone. Even as adults we take tests, for example, to earn a driver's license or earn a certificate for work.



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