**Did you know?**

**How Does Taking State Tests Help Me?**

The United States passed a law in 2015 that **requires** statewide testing in certain grades and subjects. All students in these grades take state tests.

* It allows you to show what you’ve learned and practiced in your school.
* It lets you and your family know if your school is doing a good job supporting your learning.
* It gives you and your family information about how local schools in your community are meeting the needs of all students.

Not too long ago, some students were **not included** in testing. Back then students with disabilities and English learners were often excluded.

* It tells you and your family about your progress toward completing high school and success after high school, such as attending college and being ready for a career.

**How Does Taking State Tests Help My School?**

By requiring that **all** students take the same test, schools and teachers can think about **all** students when they are planning.

* It provides information to your principal and teachers about how well all students are doing at your school.
* It allows your principal and teachers to see any differences between groups of students and make improvements, so that all students can succeed.

State tests are not perfect but having information about how all students are doing will help schools improve instruction for you and other students.

* It helps leaders who make decisions know which schools need more money and help.

Statewide testing was not always available to all students. Not too long ago, when statewide tests were given to students, they were **not** given to students with disabilities.

* It draws attention if some groups of students do not perform as well as others, and allows educators to address the learning needs of these students.

Statewide testing is meant to show how schools are doing, so they can better meet the needs of **all** students.

**What** **Can My Family and I Do So I Feel Supported?**

* Talk with your family and make sure everyone understands why you are taking a state test.
* Talk with your family and teachers about things that can help you during the test (a seat far from the window where you won’t be distracted, repeated directions if you often miss some of the details, calming music).

Statewide testing helps identify if some **groups of students** are not getting the instruction they need, so that changes can be made that will improve learning for them.

* Stay positive! Test scores are just one piece of information to use to reach your goals.
* Remember that testing is a regular part of learning and is supposed to help guide learning.
* Practice strategies that help you relax (breathing exercises, stretching, muscle relaxation), and then remember to use them during the test.

*Add any SEA or LEA questions and answers, or links to resources in this box. Be sure to add links to the SEA website with state testing information. Also include a link to state accessibility manual.*

**CONTACT**

(Delete the instructions below and add in your contact information)

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