

## Why are assessments important?

An assessment is a way to collect information about student learning. State tests are one kind of assessment.

To help our children think about state tests in a positive way we may need to rethink our adult feelings toward tests and talk to them in a positive and motivating way so they want to show what they have learned.

- State tests are an important opportunity for our children to show what they know and can do.
- State tests provide an opportunity for children to demonstrate what they have been learning and practicing in their classrooms.

A positive approach to testing:

- Test scores are a good way to gauge progress toward personal dreams for a career or education after high school.
- Testing is an opportunity to find out how well our schools are meeting students' academic needs.
- Test results highlight gaps in students' learning, so steps can be taken to ensure all students are supported in making meaningful progress.
- Results also help state policymakers and local school boards identify schools that need more assistance or additional resources.

When we talk with our children about state tests in a positive and motivating way, they can get excited about sharing what they know because they understand that their test results influence their school in important ways.



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