

Assistant Commissioner  
Office of State Assessment

March 2021

**TO:** District Superintendents  
Superintendents of Schools  
Principals of Public, Religious, and Independent Schools  
Leaders of Charter Schools

**FROM:** Steven E. Katz

**SUBJECT:** Spring 2021 Grades 3–8 English Language Arts and Mathematics Tests

This memorandum provides you with essential information regarding the Spring 2021 Grades 3–8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Tests. Please also see the note regarding the Spring 2021 Grades 4 and 8 Science Tests on page 6.

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) and the Board of Regents continue to make our primary focus the physical and mental health, safety, and well-being of the children and adults in our schools. NYSED and the Board of Regents have been closely monitoring the feasibility and fairness of administering the Grades 3–8 ELA and Mathematics Tests this spring. On February 12, 2021, NYSED submitted a formal request to the United States Department of Education (USDE) to waive

administer the tests to students, whether the testing is paper based or computer based. Additional flexibility that will be available to schools for the Spring 2021 administration of these tests is as follows:

- x Schools are not expected to bring students into the building to participate in the tests if the students are receiving entirely remote instruction during the testing windows. However, to assist in scheduling, NYSED suggests that schools consider contacting parents of students receiving entirely remote instruction to advise



- x Check the safe or vault daily to ensure that the test materials stored there have not been tampered with and remain secure.
- x

right to collect and hold any prohibited electronic devices prior to the start of the test administration. Admission to the test shall be denied to any student who is in possession of a cell phone or other prohibited electronic device and refuses to relinquish it.

**Destruction of Secure Test Materials for the 2021 Grades 3–8 ELA and Mathematics Tests**

Securely Destroy Upon Completion of Test Administration (for CBT only)	Store Securely in School or District for One Year, then Securely Destroy
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- x All used scratch paper
- x Student login credentials, session access codes, and Proctor PINs

- x All used printed

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**Attachment A**

**SHIPMENT AND CHECKING OF THE 2021 ELA AND MATHEMATICS TEST MATERIALS**

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Sender</b>	<b>Delivery Dates</b>
<u>Secure</u> Grades 3–8 ELA Regular, Test Read, Braille, and Large-Type Edition Test Session 1 and 2 Booklets; Nonsecure Teacher’s Directions	Questar	April 12 – April 14
<u>Secure</u> Grades 3–8 ELA Scoring CD containing PDF files of the scoring materials for schools	Questar	April 20
<u>Secure</u> Grades 3–8 Mathematics Regular, Test Read, Braille, Large-Type, and Chinese (Traditional), Haitian-Creole, Korean, Russian and Spanish Language Edition Test Session 1 and 2 Booklets; Nonsecure Teacher’s Directions	Questar	April 26–April 28
<u>Secure</u> Grades 3–8 Mathematics Arabic, Bengali, and Chinese (Simplified) Language Edition Test Session 1 and 2 Booklets	NYSED	April 26–April 28
<u>Secure</u> Grades 3–8 Mathematics Scoring CD containing PDF files of the scoring materials for schools	Questar	May 4

Schools that do not receive their Grades 3–8 ELA test booklets and teacher’s directions by noon on April 14 or their Grades 3–8 Mathematics test booklets and teacher’s directions by noon on April 28 should contact Questar at 866-997-0695.