

January 22, 2024

Dear DCPS Families,

Each year, DC Public Schools (DCPS) students participate in assessments designed to measure and evaluate their learning. In addition to grades and feedback from educators, this information provides critical context around your child's academic growth.

At the school level, DCPS utilizes these assessment results to improve outcomes for scholars. At the district level, these data guide decisions such as educator training and resource allocation to ensure comprehensive support for all students.

Having accurate and reliable student data is vital for promoting growth and learning recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) requires that all student assessments are conducted in-person to maintain the validity and reliability of the testing data. Students may be exempt from in-person testing with an OSSE-approved medical exemption, if they are part of an Individualized Education Program (IEP), or if they are an English learner.

Students will take the following assessments in Spring 2024. Exact testing dates are determined by each school:

- **DC CAPE (formerly PARCC):** April 1 to May 24, 2024  
*Students in grades 3–8 and secondary students enrolled in Algebra I/II, Geometry, and English I/II will take the DC CAPE Assessment.*
- **DC Science:** April 1 to May 24, 2024  
*The DC Science Assessment is administered to students in grades 5 and 8 and those enrolled in high school biology.*

Students approved by OSSE to take alternate assessments and English language proficiency assessments will take the appropriate assessment(s) in Spring 2024:

- ACCESS (language proficiency test): February 12 to March 22, 2024
- DLM (alternate assessment for science): March 11 to April 16, 2024
- MSAA (alternate assessment for math or literacy): March 11 to April 16, 2024

You can support your child's success by ensuring they arrive to school on time, are well-rested, and prepared to learn every day. For more information about the assessments, please visit [osse.dc.gov/assessments](https://osse.dc.gov/assessments), which includes [practice tests](#) and other [helpful resources](#).

Please reach out to your school if you have any questions. Thank you for your partnership in your child's educational future!

With appreciation,



Lewis D. Ferebee, Ed.D.  
Chancellor, DC Public Schools

## PARCC to DC CAPE Transition

### What is DC CAPE?

[The District of Columbia Comprehensive Assessments of Progress in Education \(DC CAPE\)](#) include the DC English Language Arts (ELA) assessment (DC ELA), the DC Math assessment (DC Math) and the DC Science assessment (DC Science). DC implemented DC CAPE for School Year 2023-2024 as a new name for its general statewide assessment system, which includes assessments in ELA, mathematics and science. Together, these assessments create a comprehensive system that provides important information on students' progress and proficiency relative to DC's educational standards.

### Is DC CAPE similar to PARCC?

DC was a member of the [Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers \(PARCC\)](#) Consortium from 2015 to 2023 and administered PARCC assessments in ELA and math. As a PARCC member state, DC was able to partner with other states to develop high-quality assessments aligned to the [Common Core State Standards \(CCSS\)](#). Building upon this foundation, the DC ELA and DC Math assessments will continue to follow the same rigorous development and review process and will measure the same knowledge and skills that matter most for DC students.

The [DC Science assessment](#) was first administered in 2019 and is DC's statewide assessment of the [Next Generation Science Standards \(NGSS\)](#). DC Science presents students with tasks that are built around scientific phenomena and engineering design challenges. During the test, students use scientific principles, skills, and behaviors to observe phenomena, generate questions, conduct investigations, create models, predict outcomes, analyze results, and engage in argumentation and communication.

### What grades and courses receive DC CAPE assessments?

- DC ELA: Grades 3-8, ELA I and ELA II
- DC Math: Grades 3-8, Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II
- DC Science: Grades 5, 8, and high school Biology