

# Questions parents Ask About Standardized Testing

1. What standardized tests will my child take this year - and when?
2. What do scores mean and how are they used?
3. When do parents get results? Do this year's teachers get the scores? Will next year's teachers get the scores?
4. Do scores on standardized tests affect the classes my child will be placed in next year? In what way? What choices are there regarding placement?
5. How are scores related to my child's achievement in term of academic standards?  
How do results affect teaching and learning?
6. If students test below grade level, can they re-take the test? When? Is this automatically done or does this need to be requested?
7. If my child will be re-tested, how can I help him or her get additional (and different) instruction to improve skills?
8. What about the new high school exit exam - when will this standardized test start and how will my child be prepared to pass it?

## *Test-Taking Tips for Students*

- ★ Follow test directions carefully.
- ★ Anticipate the answer when you read the questions.
- ★ Read the whole question first before looking at answer selections.
- ★ Answer the easy questions first; don't spend too long on any one questions.
- ★ Read all answer choices; if your answer is there, bubble it in and move on.
- ★ Be sure to bubble in answers properly- fill in the bubble completely while staying within the oval. Test are scored by computer. Stray marks on the answer card can count against you.
- ★ For reading comprehension sections, scan the questions first before reading the passage.
- ★ When skipping a questions to come back to, pay special attention to skipping that number on the answer sheet.
- ★ If your answer is not one of the choices, eliminate the answers you know are wrong; this increases the chances of selecting the right answer.
- ★ Ask if guessing will count against you; if not, use the narrowing down methods noted above and don't leave any questions blank. On standardized tests, scores are usually determined by the number of correct answers, not the number wrong.



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