

ELIMINATION OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS I STATE ASSESSMENT

Information for Districts and Schools

September 2019

OVERVIEW

Ohio law recently changed state testing requirements for students in the classes of 2023 and beyond. Law determines state testing requirements for students based on when they enter grade 9. For students who enter grade 9 on or after July 1, 2019, **state law has removed the English language arts I (ELA I) test as a required assessment in the state testing system.**¹

This document explains the impact of eliminating the English language arts I test on

- Ohio's state testing requirements;
- High school graduation requirements;
- Ohio School Report Cards; and
- Educator evaluations.

IMPACT ON OHIO'S STATE TESTING REQUIREMENTS BY COHORT

Classes of 2023 and beyond: For students entering grade 9 on or after July 1, 2019, districts are **not** required to administer the English language arts I end-of-course assessment. The end-of-course state tests still required are the **English language arts II (ELA II), algebra I, geometry,² biology, American government and American history** exams.

Classes of 2018-2022: For students who entered grade 9 between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2019, districts are still required to administer the English language arts I test to students who are enrolled in an English language arts I course for the first time and/or who need to retake the English language arts I test to satisfy Ohio's graduation requirements. This means districts will still administer seven end-of-course tests for students to meet state testing requirements: the **English language arts I, English language arts II, algebra I (or integrated math I), Geometry (or integrated math II), biology, American government and American history** exams.

IMPACT ON OHIO'S GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

State law also changed Ohio's graduation requirements and enacts new, permanent requirements for students who enter grade 9 on or after July 1, 2019. The following paragraphs outline how Ohio's elimination of the English language arts I test affects graduation requirements for each graduating class.

Classes of 2023 and beyond: For students who enter grade 9 on or after July 1, 2019, the English language arts I end-of-course test is not a component of Ohio's graduation requirements. Find more information about the graduation requirements for the [classes of 2023 and beyond here](#).

¹ Ohio Revised Code 3301.0712(B)(2)(b) as enacted in House Bill 166.

² Recent changes to state law direct the Ohio Department of Education to work with the U.S. Department of Education to ensure compliance with federal testing requirements for high school mathematics. Following these discussions, the geometry end-of-course test **may** be removed from the state assessment system. For now, districts and schools should plan to administer the geometry end-of-course assessment to any student who is enrolled in a geometry course for the first time and who has not already taken the test. The Department will communicate about any changes once a final determination is made.

Classes of 2018-2022: For students who entered grade 9 before July 1, 2019, the English language arts I end-of-course test is still a component of the state test pathway to graduation. Students who satisfy the state test pathway to graduation must earn a total of 18 points on the seven end-of-course tests—which include English language arts I—and satisfy course or curriculum content area minimums in English, mathematics, science and social studies. See more pathways to graduation for the [classes of 2018-2022 here](#).

Note: Students in the classes of 2018-2020 can make the choice to satisfy additional graduation options. To qualify for these [temporary graduation options](#), students must take all required end-of-course tests and retake any end-of-course tests in English and mathematics on which the student earned a below-proficient score.

IMPACT ON OHIO SCHOOL REPORT CARDS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Ohio will phase out the English language arts I state test from the Achievement, Progress and Gap Closing components of the Ohio School Report Cards. At the end of this transition period, the English language arts II test will be the primary high school English language arts assessment for accountability purposes.

The Department will release more details on the phase-out in the coming months.

IMPACT ON EDUCATOR EVALUATION

Previously, English language arts I end-of-course assessments have contributed to a Value-Added report that evaluators use for all or a portion (up to 50 percent) of a teacher's student growth measure. Now that the English language arts I test will no longer be administered for students in the class of 2023 and beyond, teacher Value-Added reports will reflect those changes.

Therefore, **in the 2019-2020 school year**, districts should follow the information contained on page 11 of Ohio's [Business Rules for Student Growth Measures](#) to determine the year's student growth measure evaluation rating for those teachers.

- Previously, if a teacher's entire teaching schedule was comprised of English language arts I instruction, for evaluation purposes, he or she was considered an A1 teacher.
- Now, for the 2019-2020 school year, the same teacher will be considered an A2 teacher. This change occurs because the teacher will have Value-Added data based on 2018-2019 but is no longer teaching a course in which a state assessment is administered.
- In some very limited scenarios, an ELA I class with students in the classes of 2020-22 taking the ELA I test for the first time may result in ELA I contributing to the teacher Value-Added Report.

[See more detail on how Ohio's elimination of the English language arts I test will affect educator evaluations.](#)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Are districts required to administer the English language arts I test to students in the classes of 2023 and beyond?

No. State law eliminated the English language arts I end-of-course test for students entering grade 9 on or after July 1, 2019. This means districts are not required to administer the English language arts I test to students in the classes of 2023 and beyond.

2. How long will the state continue to offer the English language arts I test?

Districts should continue to administer the English language arts I test to students in the classes of 2018 through 2022 who may need assessment opportunities to meet their graduation requirements.

The Department will release a phase-out timeline at a later date.

3. If students in the classes of 2023 or 2024 took the English language arts I (or English language arts II) assessment in middle school, does that still count toward meeting graduation requirements?

- For students who enter grade 9 on or after July 1, 2019, the English language arts I assessment is not a component of Ohio's graduation requirements and that test score will not be used to determine a student's eligibility to earn a diploma.
- For students who enter grade 9 on or after July 1, 2019, the English language arts II test is a required assessment for graduation purposes. The score on that test may satisfy the district's graduation requirements if the student scores proficient or higher or earns the designated competency score, which is under development.
- Students in the classes of 2023 and 2024 who have taken the English language arts II test in middle school before the 2019-2020 school year will not be required to retake the English language arts II test for federal accountability purposes. For students who take the English language arts II test in middle school in the 2019-2020 school year and beyond, the Department is asking the U.S. Department of Education to revise the federal double-testing waiver. The Department will provide more information later.
- [Ohio law](#) specifies that students who take the English language arts II test in middle school and earn a score of proficient or higher, or the designated competency score, cannot be required to retake the test in high school to meet graduation requirements. Currently, Ohio's double-testing waiver allows students to take the English language arts II test in middle school and the ACT or SAT in high school to meet federal accountability requirements.

Note: Changes to the federal waiver may affect this policy moving forward.

4. Will middle school students who take high school English language arts courses still be able to take the end-of-course exams for those classes rather than the overall grade-level test to avoid double testing?

The Department is developing more specific information for middle school students taking high school-level English language arts courses and will be working with the U.S. Department of Education to revise the federal double-testing waiver. The Department will release this information when it is complete.

For questions related to state testing requirements, please contact statetests@education.ohio.gov.

For questions related to graduation requirements, please contact gradrequirements@education.ohio.gov.

For questions related to accountability and report cards, please contact accountability@education.ohio.gov.

For questions related to educator evaluations, please contact evaluation@education.ohio.gov.