



Understanding the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program

Understanding the LEAP

The Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP) is a comprehensive program of assessments for students across the grade-spans. There are a variety of different assessments that occur throughout the grades and these assessments have different impacts on a child's education. Some of the assessments are high-stakes, meaning that if a child does not show adequate proficiency he or she will require remedial instruction or stay back a grade. Some of the assessments count towards a student's graduation requirements. Other assessments serve as benchmarks for achievement and progress, and school accountability.

The major assessments a child in the Louisiana Public Schools will take are the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP), the Integrated Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (iLEAP) and the End-of-Course Exams (EOCs). Some students will also take the Graduation Exit Exam (GEE). The GEE is being phased out, starting with incoming freshman of the class of 2010-2011.

The Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP) tests students in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. For students in the 4th and 8th grades, they must score a Basic or above in either English or Mathematics and Approaching Basic or above on the other assessments to advance to the next grade. The Integrated Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (iLEAP) is for students in grades 3, 5, 6 and 7 to assess their level of proficiency; this test gives a performance-ranking result but does not affect grade advancement.

The End-of Course (EOC) tests are for high school students entering in 2010-2011 and after. The tests are in the subjects of English II, English III, Algebra I, Geometry, Biology and American History. These are the assessments that are replacing the Graduation Exit Exam (GEE). Students must pass at least 3 tests in the categories of English II or English III, Algebra I or Geometry, and Biology or American History as a requirement of graduation.

These assessments are aligned to the curriculum developed by the Louisiana Department of Education. Assessing student ability at the Grade-Level Expectations of the Louisiana Comprehensive Curriculum allows teachers and districts to understand the successes and weaknesses of instruction and to tailor instruction as needed for students who are not meeting the expectations and standards of learning for their grade-level.

Format of the LEAP

The Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP) for 4th and 8th graders is a high-stakes assessment that covers the following subjects: Reading, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. The English section contains a writing prompt requiring a 100-150 word response, multiple-choice and short-response questions. Subject matter covered includes grade-level appropriate questions on reading and responding, writing, vocabulary and the ability to use textual features (charts, informational text).

The Mathematics, Science and Social Studies portion of the assessment asks questions only in a multiple-choice format. Subject matter covered in Mathematics includes: numbers, data analysis, geometry/measurement, algebra, and fractions. The Science assessment portion covers questions on earth and life science. The Social Studies section asks questions relating to civics and geography.

For students who will still take the Graduation Exit Exam (GEE), the 10th grade test covers English and Mathematics. There is an essay prompt, multiple-choice and short constructed-response questions. For 11th graders, the Graduation Exit Exam (GEE) tests students in Science and Social Studies. Questions are asked in multiple-choice and constructed-response formats.

For freshman of the 2010-2011 class and thereafter, students will take the End-of-Course (EOC) exams and not the GEE. The End-of-Course (EOCs) Exams are given in English II, English III, Algebra I, Geometry, Biology and American History and require responses in essay format, multiple-choice and constructed-response styles.

Taking the LEAP

There are different levels of proficiency determined throughout these assessments. For students taking the high-stakes Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP) in 4th and 8th grades, scores are reported in one of five levels. The achievement levels are: Advanced, Mastery, Basic, Approaching Basic and Unsatisfactory. Students must score at the Basic Level or above to pass on to the next grade without requiring remedial work or repeating the grade.

Students who take the Integrated Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (iLEAP) in 3rd, 5th, 6th and 7th grades are also scored based on the same achievement levels on the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program. These scores provide both comparative national rankings as well as assessment results based on students learning of the curricular objectives for their grade level. Results are used to assess instruction as well as the need for instructional support.

The Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP) and Integrated Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (iLEAP) are both given in the spring. Schools will provide detailed information about dates and times for these assessments.

For students taking the End-of-Course (EOC) exams results are given at one of four levels of achievement. These are: Excellent, Good, Fair and Needs Improvement. Students must pass at least 3 of the six End-of-Course (EOC) exams in order to graduate. They must pass either English II or English III; Algebra I or Geometry; and Biology or American History. Results also come in the form of a scaled score; however those scales differ based on the assessment. The End-of-Course (EOC) exams are given in late spring.

Get Your Child Ready for the LEAP

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