



Kentucky School Testing System Including the KSTS and KPREP

Understanding the Kentucky School Testing System

The state of Kentucky has adopted a new system of assessments for their students. Beginning in the school year 2011-2012 students will take the Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress (KPREP) tests in Reading and Mathematics during grades 3-8.

In grades 4 and 7 students will also take the KPREP in Science. In grades 5 and 8 students will also take the KPREP in Social Studies. Students in grades 5, 6, 8, 10 and 11 will take the On-Demand Writing Assessment. In high school students will take End-of-Course Examinations in English II, Algebra II, Biology and U.S. History

These tests are developed so that they are in alignment with the academic standards set forth in the Kentucky Common Core Standards. These curricular standards provide an organized manner by which teachers can deliver content knowledge and the assessment is based on the specific skills and knowledge laid out in the curriculum framework.

These assessments, therefore, provide a wealth of data to educators, administrators, policymakers, students and families. For students, the assessments will show their areas of strength and weakness. Student will be aware of how they rank compared to other students and how they perform against the standards they are intended to learn.

Educators and administrators are able to use the information from assessment results to plan instruction, recognize areas where increased instruction is necessary and to monitor school progress at helping all students learn the knowledge and skills of the core academic subjects. Policymakers are able to use the data provided by testing results to make decisions about funding and other measures.

The Kentucky Core Content Test is no longer being administered due to the implementation of the KPREP and End-of-Course Examinations. These tests will not determine whether a student graduates, however if a student is underperforming the assessments will be able to help figure out necessary intervention strategies.

Format of the Kentucky School Testing System

The Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress (KPREP) tests that are given in Reading, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and Writing are in multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended response question formats.

On the KPREP Reading Test students will be given literary and informational passages to read and base the answer to the multiple-choice and short-answer questions on. The test is given in three sessions of between 40-60 minutes each.

The On-Demand Writing Test requires students to write two essays based on a stand-alone prompt and a passage-based prompt. At different grade levels students will be required to write in different styles. Possible styles required are narrative, opinion, argument or informative. There are two sections, the first is 30 minutes and the second allows 90 minutes.

The KPREP in Mathematics is a three session test of time lengths ranging from 25 minutes to 75 minutes per section. There are multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended-response questions on all Mathematics Assessments.

During grades 4 and 7 students will take the KPREP in Science; this is a 3 part assessment with sections ranging from 40-55 minutes. All question formats are asked on the Science assessment.

The KPREP Social Studies Test for students in grades 5 and 8 is a three part assessment with each section ranging from 40-55 minutes. All question formats will be found on this assessment.

The End-of-Course Examinations are given upon completion of English II, Algebra II, Biology and U.S. History. These tests use multiple-choice and constructed-response question formats. Students are tested on the materials covered during the course for which the End-Of-Course Exam is designed.

These tests are administered in the Spring or at the end of a course, if that course is only a semester long. Districts will provide exact information on test dates and times. Students who require testing accommodations per an Individual Education Plan (IEP) will receive their necessary accommodations.

Taking the Kentucky School Testing System

Students taking the KPREP Assessments have the curricular frameworks as a means to guide and plan for test preparation. Students are tested in the following skills and knowledge on the KPREP Assessments in the following subjects:

In Reading – students need to demonstrate an ability to recognize key ideas in reading, understand the craft and structure of literature and informational texts, students need to be able to integrate ideas, and they need to show proficiency in vocabulary development.

In Mathematics – students will need to demonstrate proficiency in the following sub-topics: operations and algebraic thinking, numbers and operations, measurement and data (statistics and probability), and geometry.

In Science – students will need to show proficient understanding of physical science, earth and space science, life science and the unifying concepts within the field of science.

In Social Studies – students will be assessed in the areas of government and civics, cultures and societies, economics, geography, and historical perspectives.

In Writing – students will need to demonstrate the ability to write in two of the following modes: narrative, opinion, argumentative, informative or explanatory.

These content areas are laid out in specific detail for the planning use of teachers in the Kentucky Common Core Standards. The standards do not determine exact lesson plans or materials required to

teach a skill. It provides the standards that all teaching and learning are held to so that all students achieve proficiency in the subjects.

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