

# Curriculum & Instruction Update

## Fairfield City School District

### Online Testing is Here! Instructional Strategies ...

With the start of a new calendar year comes the realization that online testing has truly arrived. As you already know, online testing will be a new experience for many students in our district. They will be exposed to technology tools that will require them to perform a number of functions including plotting points, select and drag/slide, use text highlighter, and use a video player – just to name a few. It is important that students practice with the technology tools the online tests utilize. One simple method is exposure. The more students are exposed to online testing questions in a computer lab setting, the greater their chances for success. One idea to help students successfully navigate online tests is to do what teachers do best

when developing lesson plans – strategize!

Here are two examples of ways you can strategize to help prepare your students for online testing:

While taking online practice tests ...

1. Pair students or place them in small groups to complete problems with classmates. Then give students the opportunity to discuss anything they found challenging about the format of the problems. *For example: It was difficult to locate the text high-light feature.*

**A webcast detailing spring tests was presented on February 3 at 10 a.m. This info is still available on ODE's site.**

2. Think, Pair, Share: Assign a set of practice problems for students to complete individually. After completing the assigned problems, students pair with another student to discuss anything they found challenging or easy about the questions they completed. Student pairs can share their discoveries with the rest of the class.

Prior to getting students into the computer lab, make sure you have previewed the practice questions yourself. This will help you to help your students!

If you have any questions regarding online testing, please contact Rob Beidelman or Lori Wegman by calling 829-6300 or through email via FirstClass.

### New State Tests and Web Site – Avocet

Testing materials for the language arts and the mathematics tests is posted on the website, Avocet. This Pearson site includes practice tests, test manuals, training coordinator

manuals, administration manuals, training modules, and various other materials. Click on the Avocet icon to the right to access the site.

Please become familiar with the information on this site before testing.

**Avocet**   
A to Z Results

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### Reminders

- Follow us on Twitter  
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## Did You Know?

### Scores for New State Tests

The scores for the new state tests will not be available until late fall 2015 due to the standard-setting process conducted in summer 2015.

### Use of Calculators

PARCC states that high school students may not use a different calculator (one permitted for math tests in grades 3-8) on the Math I or Math II tests. However, in this case, ODE “trumps” PARCC and is allowing a high school student to do so if this is an allowable accommodation for a student.

### Testing Windows

Each grade level has developed their own testing schedule within the states allowable testing window (state testing windows are listed below).

## New State Tests—GR K-12 Spring 2015 Test Windows

### English Language Arts and Math

Tests will be administered in 4 parts:

- The performance-based assessments computer format will be administered **Feb. 16–Mar.20**.
- The performance-based assessments paper format will be administered **Feb. 16–Mar.6**.

- The end-of-year tests computer format will be administered **Apr.13–May 15**.
- The end-of-year tests paper format will be administered **Apr.13–May 1**.

### Science and Social Studies

Tests will be administered in 2 parts:

- The performance-based assessments will be administered **Mar. 2–13** (10 days).
- The end-of-year tests will be administered **May 4–15** (10 days).

## Calculator Policies for Ohio

### New State Elementary Math Test

For more information, please check the [PARCC calculator policy online](#) and [Ohio's Calculator Guidance](#) for specific usage rules.

Allowable calculators:

- Grades 3-5: No calculators allowed, except for students with an approved calculator accommodation.
- Grades 6-7: Four-function with square root and percentage functions.
- Grade 8: Scientific calculators.

### Algebra I and Geometry

The requirements for use of a calculator for the new state

mathematics tests are listed below. For more information, please check the calculator policy online for specific usage rules.

The allowable calculators for the new state Algebra I and Geometry tests (Math I and Math II) are graphing calculators with functionalities consistent with TI-84 or similar models.

**Additionally, schools at all grade levels must adhere to the following additional guidance regarding calculators:**

- No calculators with Computer Algebra System features are allowed.

- No tablet, laptop (or PDA) or phone-based calculators are allowed.
- Students are not allowed to share calculators within a testing session.
- Test administrators must confirm that memory on all calculators has been cleared before and after testing sessions.
- Calculators with "QWERTY" keyboards are **not** permitted.
- If schools or districts permit students to bring their own hand-held calculators for the mathematics tests, the test administrators must confirm that the calculators meet the requirements as defined above.

### Rumor Control from ODE...

*"The course will be completely taught when the PBA and EOY tests are administered."*

No. The PBA is administered when 75 percent of instruction has been presented and the EOY is administered when 90 percent of instruction is administered. There may be additional instruction presented after the PBA and EOY tests have been administered. The district/school curriculum will determine the schedule of instruction.