

NEWS BULLETIN

Help us Name the Test

The South Carolina Department of Education is developing a new assessment program for students in grades three through eight. We would like help in naming the assessment program.

Please send suggestions to Judy Hair at jhair@ed.sc.gov by August 8, 2008.

General Information

The new assessment program will be administered for the first time in spring 2009. Test dates will be determined before the beginning of the 2008–09 school year.

The program will include tests in writing, English language arts (reading and research), mathematics, science, and social studies. Students will receive separate scores for each of these tests. Students who qualify will take the SC-Alt instead of the new assessment program. For information about who qualifies for SC-Alt, see www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/assessment/programs/SWD/documents/partici1_08.pdf.

Writing Test

All students in grades 3-8 must take the writing test. The writing test will most likely be administered in March. It will consist of editing passages with multiple-choice questions and a writing prompt with space for students to write an extended response. The test booklet will include a copy of the writing rubric that will be used to score the prompt.

ELA, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

All other subjects will be administered during one week in May. These tests will contain



multiple-choice items only. All students in grades 3-8 must take the ELA and mathematics tests. All students in grades 4 and 7 will take both the science and the social studies tests. Students in grades 3, 5, 6, and 8 will take either the science or the social studies test.

Score Reports

Standard setting for the new test will be held during the summer of 2009. Therefore, student, school, and district results will not be available until fall 2009. In 2010 and thereafter, student results will be available by the middle of June.

The new assessments are designed to report at the standard level in each subject (e.g. algebra for mathematics).

The overall test performance levels are:

Exemplary – The student demonstrated exemplary performance in meeting the grade level standard.

Met – The student met the grade level standard.

Not Met – The student did not meet the grade level standard.