

How are the tests scored?

The Next Generation Science Standards are written to address science content (knowledge), science practice (skill), and science connections (things that are related across topics). Student scores on the statewide assessment will reliably reflect each student's ability to use science in a real-world context at the appropriate grade level. Students will receive a scale score from 1–4 where 1=well below proficient and 4=above proficient.

How will I know my child's score?

Beginning Spring 2019, families will receive a score report for each student who took the test. The report explains how each student performed on the test and how to interpret the scores.

What will the school do with my child's score?

As with all statewide assessments, teachers will use the NGSS science assessment score as one of many measures to determine your child's progress in science.

Where can I get more information about the Delaware Next Generation Science Assessment?

For more information on Delaware's science assessment, visit <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/domain/519> or contact the Delaware Department of Education at 302-857-3199.

Where can I get more information about the Next Generation Science Standards?

For more information about the Next Generation Science Standards, visit <https://www.nextgenscience.org/>.

Para leer este folleto en español, vaya a <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/domain/519>

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35 Commerce Way
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A family's guide
to Delaware's
assessment program for
science



Delaware Next Generation SCIENCE Assessment

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What is the Delaware Next Generation Science Assessment?

Delaware is transitioning its yearly state test for science to a science assessment system aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). This assessment system asks students to demonstrate their progress toward mastery of the NGSS.

The term *assessment* in education refers to any check of student performance—from an in-class quiz to an end-of-year test. Regular assessments are an important part of understanding how and what students are learning in the classroom. Teachers use assessment information to tailor each student's instruction.



What are the Next Generation Science Standards?

The NGSS are K–12 standards in science that tell teachers what students need to learn in each grade. These standards provide students with deeper, more rigorous learning experiences.

The NGSS are organized into three areas: science and engineering practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts. Together, these dimensions help students to think like scientists and apply their knowledge to solve real-world challenges.

When will the test occur?

The Spring 2018 Next Generation Science assessment window is from May 7–June 1. This first administration will be a field test.

Why give a field test?

The data from student performances on field tests are used by test developers to confirm that the test questions are accurate, free of bias, and appropriate for use in scored assessments. All Delaware students in grades 5 and 8 and those taking high school biology will take the 2018 field test, but students will not receive scores for their field test performance.

How does the new test differ from previous ones?

In the past, students were tested on factual knowledge. With the NGSS science assessments, students will be asked to demonstrate their knowledge of science and apply it to different tasks. In addition to these tasks, the assessments include more familiar test questions like multiple-choice and short answer.

How long are the tests?

The tests are designed so that most students will finish them in two hours. However, the tests are untimed, so students may have more time to complete the test.

What types of questions are on the tests?

The tests include individual questions as well as groups of questions that together assess a broad concept. The tests will focus on concepts learned and practiced during that year.

How will my student know how to complete the online test?

Training tests are available online for students and teachers to familiarize themselves with the online testing system. These training tests allow users to practice using tools, answering questions, and navigating through a test. Training tests can be accessed at <http://delaware.pearsonaccessnext.com/tutorial/>.



How often will my child take the Delaware Next Generation Science Assessment?

The DeSSA Next Generation Science Assessment will be given to students at the end of grade 5, the end of grade 8, and the end of the school year when they take high school biology.

