

How are the tests scored?

The Delaware Social Studies Standards are each written to address social studies content knowledge and skill in civics, economics, geography, and history. Student scores will reliably reflect their ability to use social studies content and skills in a real-world context at each appropriate grade level. Students will receive a scale score that will be translated to a proficiency score of 1–4 where 1=well below, 2= below, 3= proficient, 4=above proficient.

How will I know my child's score?

Scores will not be reported for the Spring 2018 test. In subsequent years, parents will receive a score report for each child who took the test. The report will explain how the child performed on the test and how to interpret the scores.

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

The DeSSA Social Studies Assessment score will be one of many measures of your child's social studies performance. This score will be included with multiple measures to identify strengths and weaknesses in your child's learning pattern to identify ongoing strategies to best meet the needs of your child.

Where can I get more information about the DeSSA Social Studies Assessments?

You can visit the Delaware Department of Education's assessment website at <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/domain/518>. You can also contact the Office of Assessment at 302-857-3391.

Where can I get more information about Delaware's Social Studies Standards and the Delaware State Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies?

You can visit the Delaware Social Studies website at <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/Page/2548>.

Para leer este folleto en español, vaya a <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/domain/518>

Delaware Department of Education
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A family's guide
to Delaware's
assessment program for
social studies



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Delaware's SOCIAL STUDIES Assessment

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What is the Delaware Social Studies Assessment?

Delaware redesigned its social studies assessments for grades 4, 7, and 11. The assessment will be administered in Spring 2018. DeSSA Social Studies is the state's student testing program for social studies. This assessment will be online. The program aligns to Delaware's Social Studies Standards and the Delaware State Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies. This brochure was created to give you and your family information about this assessment program.



What are the Delaware Social Studies Standards?

The Delaware Social Studies Standards are written to address social studies content knowledge and skill in civics, economics, geography, and history. Social Studies prepares young people to become informed and active citizens who accept their responsibilities, understand their rights, and participate actively in society and government.

When will the test occur?

The Spring 2018 Delaware Social Studies assessment window is from April 16–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 4, 7, and 11 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?

The social studies assessments will be more rigorous in assessment of analytical thinking skills. To do this, the new assessments will include tasks in addition to more familiar test question types such as multiple-choice questions. For example, a student may be asked to demonstrate understanding of bias in sources by analyzing a document in addition to answering multiple-choice and short-answer questions that test factual knowledge. Through the test, students will be able to demonstrate their skills and knowledge of the concepts in the state standards. The continued focus on higher-order analytical thinking skills will better prepare students for college and career.

How long are the tests?

The DeSSA Social Studies Assessments are untimed.



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.

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

Training tests were available online beginning September 2017 for students and teachers to familiarize themselves with the online testing system. These tests allow users to practice using tools, answering questions, and navigating through a test. They can be accessed at <http://delaware.pearsonaccessnext.com/tutorial/>.

How often will my child take the DeSSA Social Studies Assessments?

The DeSSA Social Studies assessment will be given to students at the end of grades 4, 7, and 11.

