

2019 NY State Intermediate Science Test

ESMS FAQ

1. What is the New York State Intermediate Science Test (NYSIST)?

It is a test designed to see what you have learned from 5th-8th grade in science class. There is a written portion and a performance portion to test both general knowledge and science skills.

2. My high school is asking if I will be taking a Science Regents. Is this a Regents test?

No. We will not be taking a Regents test this year.

3. What are the Regents tests and how is the NYSIST different?

- The Regents tests are optional for 8th graders and are designed for testing a deep understanding of subject areas (like "Earth Science" or "Living Environment"). Generally these are offered at schools that have "advanced" courses focusing only in the corresponding subject area (e.g., a student taking an advanced, year-long Earth Science course may be eligible for taking the Earth Science Regents test). ESMS does not offer advanced courses or Regents exams in science.
- The NYSIST is taken by ALL students in New York State and follows the benchmarks of the New York State Science Curriculum. This curriculum is broad and general, covering many science topics over the course of grades 5-8.

4. Is this like the test we took in 4th grade?

Yes! The 4th grade test and the 8th grade test are set up similarly; this test is meant to evaluate what you have learned *since* 4th grade.

5. What material is covered?

Topics in 5th-8th grade science are in the Life, Physical, and Earth Science domains.

6. Do I get to practice taking the test?

- Yes, both a practice written test and a practice performance test will be given well in advance.
- The written test *practice* will be similar in length and topics to those covered on the actual test. Because the test changes every year, there is no way of knowing what particular questions, formats of questions, or topics will be covered.
- We will be taking a *practice* performance test with science equipment that may be utilized on the test during class before the testing dates.

8. When is the NYSIST?

- Performance test: **May 28th - 30th**, with an adjusted schedule for these days. This portion of the test will only take one test session. Your class will be given specific details about your day/time
- Written test: **June 3rd**, periods 1-3.

9. What happens if I am absent?

- You will be assigned a time to make up the portion of the test you missed. You may end up missing classes to complete the makeup.
- ***It is important that you make every attempt to be at school when you are scheduled to test.***

10. How long is the NYSIST?

- Performance test: three stations with 7-10 questions each; 65 minutes regular testing time
- Written test: approximately 85 questions; 120 minutes regular testing time

11. Where will I be taking the test?

- Performance testing will be done in the library.
- Written test will be administered in homerooms (like the ELA and Math tests).

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12. Who will give the NYSIST test?

- Mrs. Duchatelier, Mrs. Fure, and Mrs. Nicolosi (or other proctors determined by ESMS administration, but typically science teachers) will give the performance test
- Homeroom teachers will administer the written test.

13. Can the test proctors help me during the test?

No. The test proctors can only provide you with the materials you need.

14. How is the performance test different from the written test?

- The performance test evaluates your skills of measuring and experimentation, as well as your use of science tools (microscopes, balances, apparatus, etc.).
- The written test evaluates your basic science understanding through both multiple-choice and short-answer questions, as well as graphing and data analysis.

15. How is it evaluated?

- Criteria have been established prior to the testing. Evaluators (science teachers) compare your responses to acceptable answers and assign the corresponding point value.
- Multiple-choice questions are bubbled on an answer document and evaluated electronically.

16. When do I get my scores?

Scores are reported to ESMS in the weeks after the testing window and officially added to your education cumulative files sometime in the fall.

17. What will my score look like?

Like the ELA and Math state tests, the NYSIST will be given a score range of 1-4 for each student, based on the combined score of the written and performance portions.

- Level 4 (Score Range: 85-100) - Meeting standards with Distinction
- Level 3 (Score Range: 65-84) - Meeting the Standards
- Level 2 (Score Range: 44-64) - Not Fully Meeting Standards
- Level 1 (Score Range: 0-43) - Not Meeting the Standards

18. How is the scoring compared? How do I know if I have done well?

- Once the scores have been submitted, the state issues a report of schools and students compared to the overall achievement of the city and state. ESMS students typically score above the city and state averages.
- Individual achievement is based on your expectations, preparedness, and ability. There is not a threshold for a "good" score.

19. How does the NYSIST score affect my grade?

- Your final score will be included as a portion of your ESMS 3rd trimester grade.
- Preparatory tasks and work done in class will be accounted for in your third trimester grade.
- Your scores will be released to high schools in the fall; schools decide whether/how to use scores.