

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Every spring, students on Staten Island are administered the annual English language arts (ELA) and math state standardized tests. The exams -- given to grades 3-8 -- are designed to measure how well students are mastering the learning standards that guide classroom instruction and ensure that students are on track to graduate from high school, according to the state Education Department.

Here are **5** key things parents should know about the 2019 exams, according to the state Education Department:

WHEN ARE THE EXAMS?

For Staten Island students, the state ELA exam will be administered from April 2-3. The state math exam will be given from May 1-2.

2 SESSIONS

Like last year's exams, the 2019 ELA and math tests are two sessions each. With fewer test sessions, each exam will have substantially fewer questions than in recent years. This lessens test fatigue for students and enables them to better demonstrate what they know and are able to do, according to the state Education Department.

Students previously took the ELA exam over three days in April, and the math exam over three days in May.

UNTIMED EXAMS

The state exams will be untimed, which means that as long as students are working productively, they will have as much time as they need to complete each test session within the confines of a regular school day.

Schools and districts have discretion to allow students to read silently or quietly exit the room when they have completed their test while others continue to work, the agency said.

TEST QUESTIONS

Teachers from across New York State serve on committees to write, evaluate and select questions for the tests.

Hundreds of educators were involved in creating and reviewing questions for this year's ELA and math exams, and selecting the questions for the test forms.

RESULTS

The Education Department said it plans to issue school-wide results to educators by the end of the academic year. Individual student results typically come out between late July and mid-August. Test results were delayed last year -- and were not released until September -- as a result of the decision to reduce testing days from three to two.