

# **Pennsylvania State Assessments 2011**

**Edward G. Rendell,  
Governor**

**Thomas E. Gluck, Acting Secretary of  
Education**

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# Presentation Content

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PSSA Writing

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PSSA-M Science

NAEP

TIMSS

PIRLS

CDT

# **Important Dates**

## **PSSA Math and Reading & PSSA-M Math and PSSA-M Reading**

**March 14 - March 25, 2011**

## **PSSA Writing**

**March 28 - April 1, 2011**

## **PSSA Science and PSSA-M Science**

**April 4 - April 8, 2011**

# Important Dates

**PSSA make-up for all content areas and  
PSSA-M Math, Reading, and Science**

**April 11 – April 15, 2011**

**ACCESS for ELLs Test Window Grades K-  
12**

**January 24 – March 4, 2011**

## Important Dates

**PASA Math & Reading Grades 3 - 8, 11**  
**February 14 - March 25, 2011**

**PASA Science Grades 4, 8, 11**  
**May 2 - May 27, 2011**

**NAEP Math, Reading, Science, Writing  
and Economics. Grades 4, 8, 12 in  
selected schools**  
**January 24 - March 4, 2011**

## Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA)

- Math & Reading: **Feb 14-March 25, 2011**
- Science: **May 2 – 27, 2011**
- Writing: No statewide test form; individually created (by teacher), scored (by teacher), and stored (in IEP folder)
- Who participates in the PASA?
  - Grades 3-8 and 11
  - Students with a significant cognitive disability

## Contact information

- Who manages the test?
  - PASA Project at the University of Pittsburgh
  - <http://www.pasaassessment.org/>
  - 412-648-7363
  - All test materials are shipped from and returned to PASA Project

## Participation Guidelines

- Student must meet all 6 eligibility criteria
- Guidelines are posted on PASA website and on PDE Special Education website in the ASIST document
- [http://www.education.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/special\\_education/7465/assessment/607491](http://www.education.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/special_education/7465/assessment/607491)

# Important Dates

## 2011 PSSA Testing Window

**March 14 - April 15, 2011**

## Who Takes the PSSA?

- Math/Reading – All students in grades 3-8 and 11
  - Writing – All students in grades 5, 8, and 11
  - Science – All students in grades 4, 8, and 11

## Who is Excused?

- Those who qualify to take the PASA
  - Students must meet 6 criteria in order to take the alternate assessment for students who have significant disabilities. See [www.pasaassessment.org](http://www.pasaassessment.org).
- ELLs in their first 12 months of enrollment in a US school:
  - **Must take**
    - PSSA Math or PSSA-M Math, and
    - PSSA Science or PSSA-M Science
  - **Do not have to take**
    - PSSA Reading
    - PSSA Writing
  - See [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/english\\_as\\_a\\_second\\_language/7529](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/english_as_a_second_language/7529).

## Accommodations

- PSSA & PSSA-M
  - PDE website-Programs-PSSA-Resource materials  
[http://www.education.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/testing\\_accommodations\\_security/7448](http://www.education.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/testing_accommodations_security/7448)
- PASA
  - Pennsylvania's Alternate System of Assessment for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities
  - [www.pasaassessment.org](http://www.pasaassessment.org)

# Pennsylvania Academic Standards

**Chapter 4** - January 16, 1999, established the Academic Standards and Assessments

**Act 16** (Senate Bill 652) - May 3, 2000, defined the PSSA as a test developed and implemented by the Department of Education to determine only academic achievement relating directly to objective academic standards in the areas of Reading, Mathematics, and Science

**No Child Left Behind** – January 8, 2002

September 19, 2002- State Board Adoption of NCLB

# Pennsylvania Academic Standards

- Define what each student should know and do in a core set of subjects
- Provide consistent targets for students, teachers, and districts
- Allow districts to measure student achievement

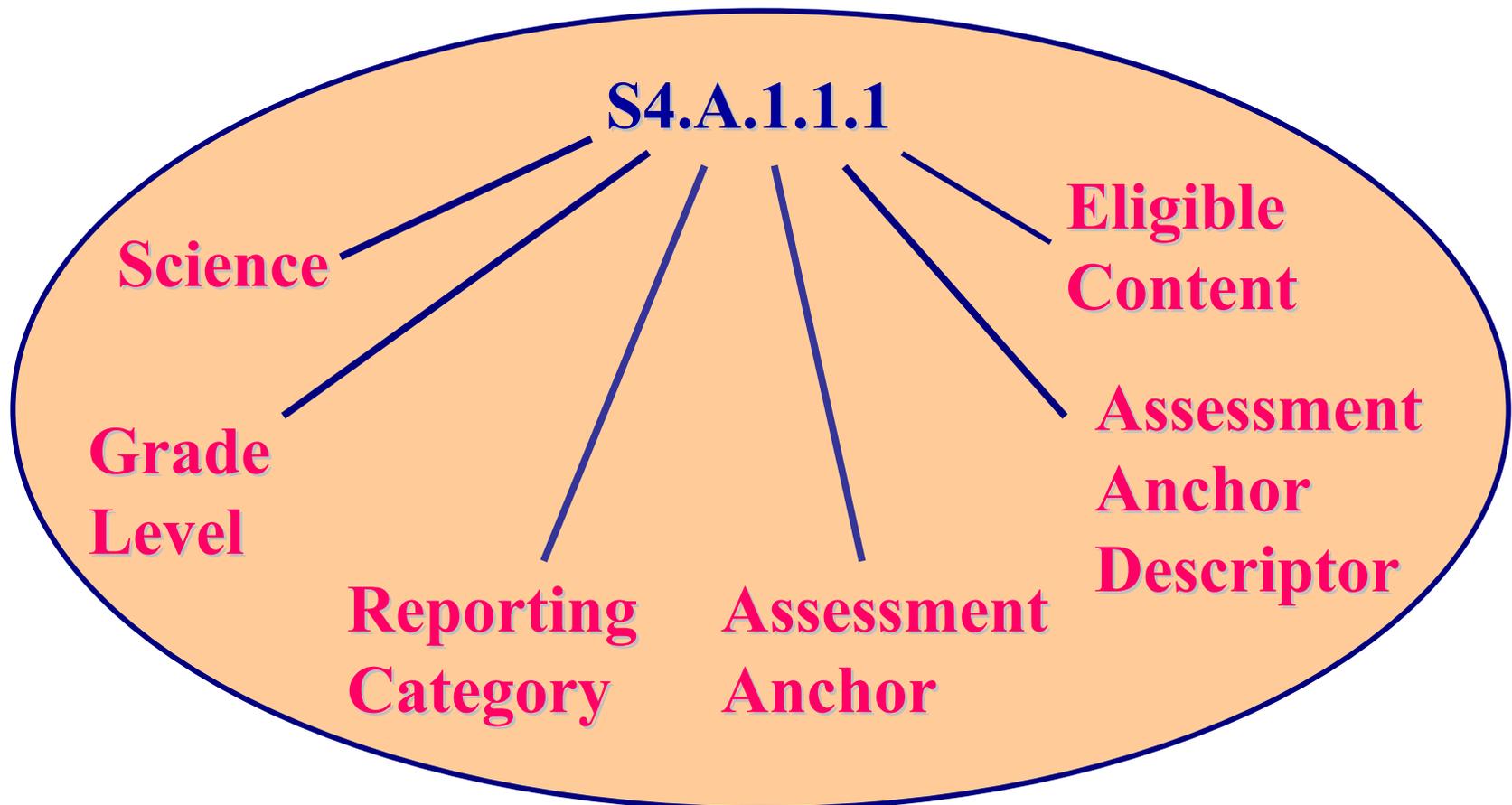
# Assessment Anchor Content Standards

- Support for inquiry-based learning, investigative, experimental, multisensory instruction
- Core knowledge of the PSSA content

# The Taxonomy of Assessment Anchor Content Standards

1. Content Area
2. Grade Level
3. Reporting Category
4. Assessment Anchor Content Standards  
**(Assessment Anchors)**
5. Assessment Anchor Descriptor
6. Eligible Content

## Assessment Anchor Coding



## Important Features to Know

**e.g.-** The list is made up of examples but  
are not limited to those given

**i.e.-** The list is limited to those specific  
examples given

## Important Features to Know

**or** - a student can be assessed on all or just some of the elements in the Eligible Content

**and** - the *intent* is to assess each element in the Eligible Content

## Access to Information



Pennsylvania Department of Education - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by PA Department of Education

http://www.education.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/pennsylvania\_department\_of\_education/7237

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Students>> Families>> Teachers>> Administrators>> Library/Partners>>

Hot Topics

- >> [Standards Aligned System](#)
- >> [2009-2010 Education Budget](#)
- >> [American Reinvestment & Recovery Act](#)
- >> [School District Property Tax Relief](#)
- >> [Act 114 Requirements - Federal Fingerprinting](#)

Standards Aligned Systems

(SAS) is a developing architecture you as a participant in our education community need to know about.

1 2 3 4 5

Latest News

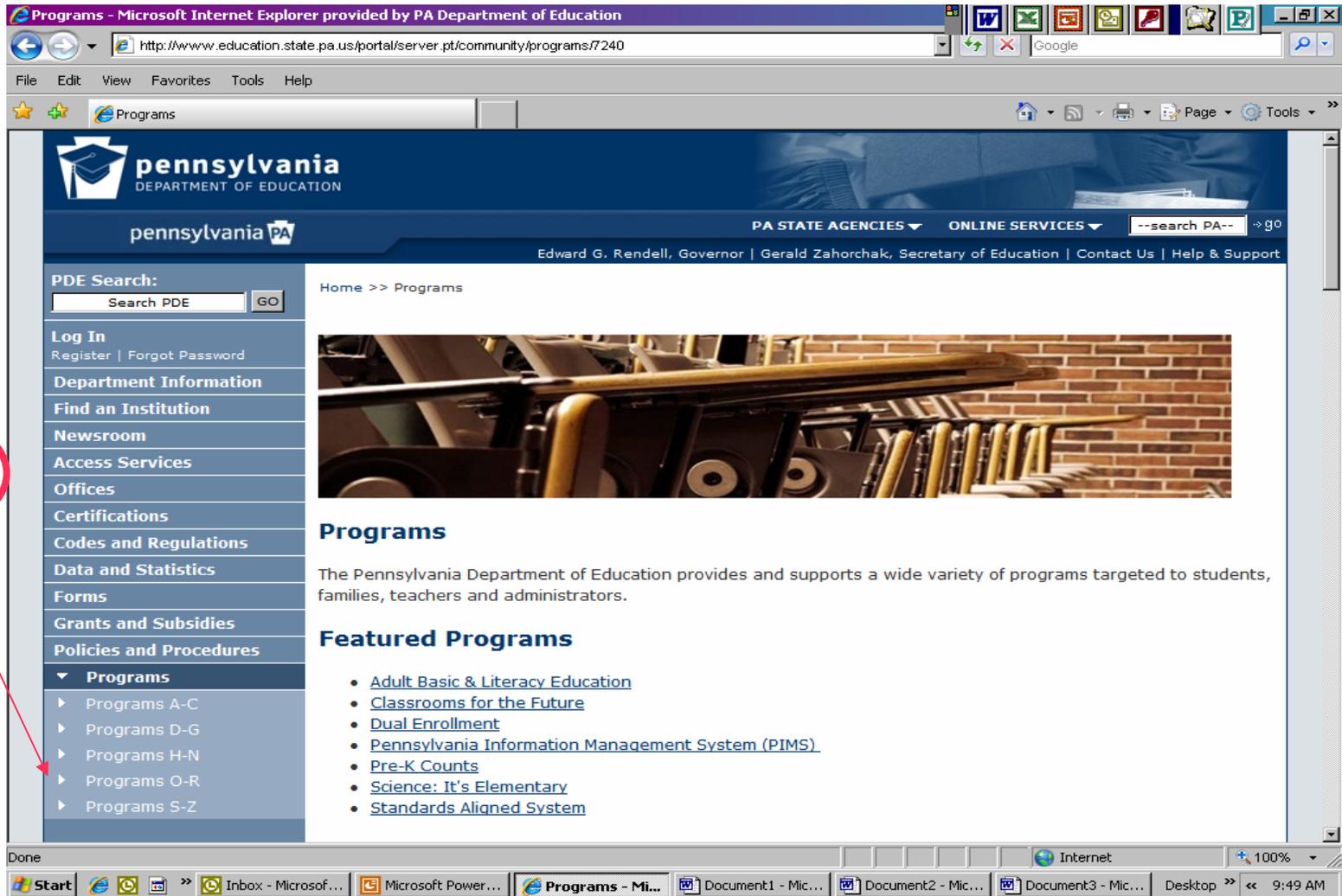
- >> [Education Secretary Zahorchak Announces Pennsylvania's 2010 Teacher of the Year](#)

Welcome from Secretary Zahorchak

Welcome to the Department of

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Programs - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by PA Department of Education

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Programs

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- Policies and Procedures
- Programs**
  - Programs A-C
  - Programs D-G
  - Programs H-N
  - Programs O-R
  - Programs S-Z

**Programs**

The Pennsylvania Department of Education provides and supports a wide variety of programs targeted to students, families, teachers and administrators.

**Featured Programs**

- [Adult Basic & Literacy Education](#)
- [Classrooms for the Future](#)
- [Dual Enrollment](#)
- [Pennsylvania Information Management System \(PIMS\)](#)
- [Pre-K Counts](#)
- [Science: It's Elementary](#)
- [Standards Aligned System](#)

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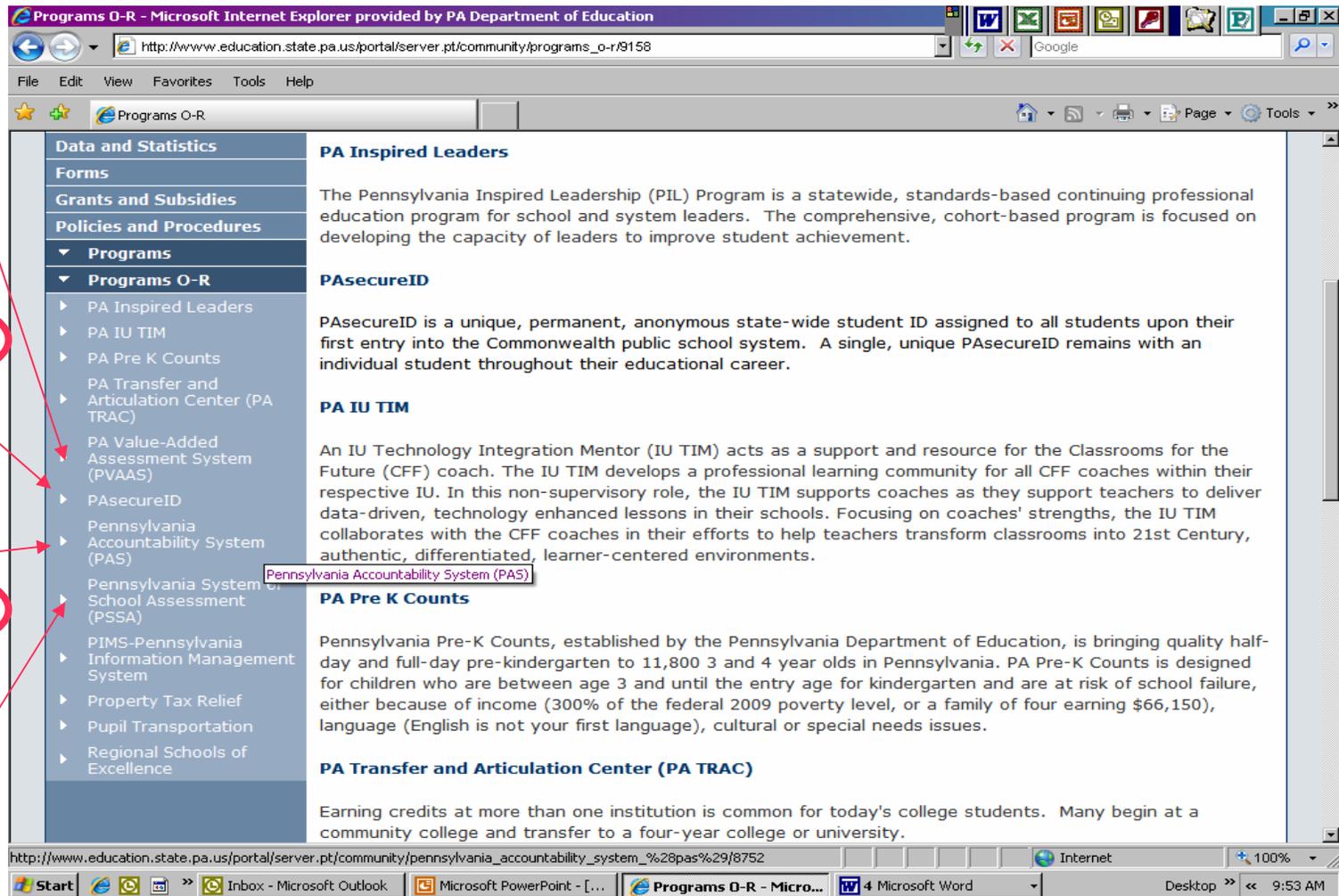
## Access to Information

PVAAS

PA Secure ID

Accountability

PSSA



Programs O-R - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by PA Department of Education

http://www.education.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/programs\_o-r/9158

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Programs O-R

- Data and Statistics
- Forms
- Grants and Subsidies
- Policies and Procedures
- Programs
  - Programs O-R
    - PA Inspired Leaders
    - PA IU TIM
    - PA Pre K Counts
    - PA Transfer and Articulation Center (PA TRAC)
    - PA Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS)
    - PAsecureID
    - Pennsylvania Accountability System (PAS)
    - Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA)
    - PIMS-Pennsylvania Information Management System
    - Property Tax Relief
    - Pupil Transportation
    - Regional Schools of Excellence

**PA Inspired Leaders**

The Pennsylvania Inspired Leadership (PIL) Program is a statewide, standards-based continuing professional education program for school and system leaders. The comprehensive, cohort-based program is focused on developing the capacity of leaders to improve student achievement.

**PAsecureID**

PAsecureID is a unique, permanent, anonymous state-wide student ID assigned to all students upon their first entry into the Commonwealth public school system. A single, unique PAsecureID remains with an individual student throughout their educational career.

**PA IU TIM**

An IU Technology Integration Mentor (IU TIM) acts as a support and resource for the Classrooms for the Future (CFF) coach. The IU TIM develops a professional learning community for all CFF coaches within their respective IU. In this non-supervisory role, the IU TIM supports coaches as they support teachers to deliver data-driven, technology enhanced lessons in their schools. Focusing on coaches' strengths, the IU TIM collaborates with the CFF coaches in their efforts to help teachers transform classrooms into 21st Century, authentic, differentiated, learner-centered environments.

**PA Pre K Counts**

Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts, established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, is bringing quality half-day and full-day pre-kindergarten to 11,800 3 and 4 year olds in Pennsylvania. PA Pre-K Counts is designed for children who are between age 3 and until the entry age for kindergarten and are at risk of school failure, either because of income (300% of the federal 2009 poverty level, or a family of four earning \$66,150), language (English is not your first language), cultural or special needs issues.

**PA Transfer and Articulation Center (PA TRAC)**

Earning credits at more than one institution is common for today's college students. Many begin at a community college and transfer to a four-year college or university.

http://www.education.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/pennsylvania\_accountability\_system\_%28pas%29/8752

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## Resource Materials

- Item and Scoring Samplers
- Performance Level Descriptors
  - Detailed description of Advanced, Proficient, Basic, and Below Basic
- Performance Level Cut Scores
- Handbook for all content areas
- 2011 “Getting Ready” Power Point

# **PSSA Math Assessment 2011**

# Math 2011

- Criterion Referenced
- 5 Reporting Categories
  - Numbers and Operations
  - Measurement
  - Geometry
  - Algebra
  - Data Analysis

## Math 2011

- Student score comes from:
  - 60 Multiple Choice questions
  - 3 Open-Ended questions
- Students take:
  - 72 MC at grades 3 - 8 and 11
  - 4 Open-Ended
- All grades will alternate subject areas with Math coming first.

## Math 2011

### 2011 Math Test Format

2011 Math Test Format								
		Number of Multiple Choice Items per Student (1 point each)			Number of Open-Ended Items per Student (4 points each)			
Grade	Estimated Time of Test	Common Multiple Choice Items	Equating Block Items	Field Test Items	Common Open-Ended Items	Equating Block Items	Field Test Items	Total Number of Score Points
3-8 and 11	180 minutes 3 sessions	<b>60</b>	2	10	<b>3</b>	0	1	<b>60+12=72</b>

Scores come from the COMMON ONLY.

## Math 2011

- Embedded Field Test
- Open-Ended items scored on a 0-4 scale
- Item-specific scoring guidelines but no general rubric.
- Formula sheets will be provided for grades 7, 8 and 11. Formulas needed in grades 5 and 6 are provided with the item.
  - See Resource Materials on our web site for the formula sheets and item samplers.

## Item Specifics

- MC items based on Eligible Content
- OE items based on Anchor (**Verbs** come from Anchor, Anchor Descriptor or Eligible Content; **Content** comes from Eligible Content.)
- Reminder:  
Have students read the OE items carefully and answer exactly what is being asked.

## Item Specifics

- Examples of how OE items might be phrased:
  - Show or explain all your work.
  - Show all your work. Explain why you did each step.
  - Explain why [something is true or false]
  - Describe how [doing something affects something else; to find something, etc]

## Math 2011

- Roy is running for class president. He polls 50 students. 60% of them say they will vote for him.
  - A. There are 350 students in Roy's class. Based on his survey, how many students should he expect to vote for him? Show or explain all your work.
  - B. Roy will sell fruit drinks to raise money for his campaign. A fruit drink cost \$0.10 and he sells it for \$0.50. How many fruit drinks does Roy need to sell to earn \$80? Show all your work. Explain why you did each step.

## Math 2011

### Rubric:

#### Part A:

- $\frac{1}{2}$  point for correct answer
- 1 point for complete and correct work OR  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  point for correct but incomplete work.

#### Part B:

- $\frac{1}{2}$  point for correct answer
- 1 point for correct and complete work OR  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  point for correct but incomplete work.
- 1 point for correct and complete explanation.  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  point for correct but incomplete explanation.

## Math 2011

### Rubric Metric:

Total Points (within)

4

3 – 3 ½

2 – 2 ½

½ - 1 ½

0

Score (on)

4

3

2

1

0

## Math 2011

- Some notes about OE items:
  - Guess and Check is a valid method but at least 2 *incorrect* guesses must be shown to receive full credit.
  - Not all OE items require a “why.”
  - At least half the score points must come from one Anchor. The rest can come from anywhere else in that Reporting Category.

## Math 2011

- Testing time is approximately 150-180 minutes for Math.
- Testing in Grades 3 - 8 and 11.
- Can have a “blemish” and still get a score of 4
- “e.g. missing \$” may or may not be a blemish depending on the item and grade.
- “Guess and check” is a valid, acceptable strategy but to get full credit at least 2 incorrect “guesses” must be shown.

## Math 2011

- If an answer box is given the answer does not have to be in the answer box to receive full credit, but if there is an answer in the answer box it overrides any other answer given.
- An incorrect answer carried through correctly will receive full credit for the correct part.

## Math 2011

- Grade 4 and up: calculators ARE permitted on all but the beginning few items.
- Rulers will be provided at grades where needed. Students must use the rulers provided for the PSSA.
- Rulers scaled in centimeters and inches as required by the Anchors.
- Protractors are provided as needed within the item itself.

## Rulers

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Scaled to</u>	<u>Measure to</u>
3	$\frac{1}{4}$ inch and	Nearest $\frac{1}{2}$ inch
4	$\frac{1}{8}$ inch and millimeter	Nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ inch or centimeter
5	$\frac{1}{16}$ inch and millimeter	Nearest $\frac{1}{8}$ inch or centimeter
6	$\frac{1}{16}$ inch and millimeter	Nearest $\frac{1}{16}$ inch or millimeter

# Math 2011

## Calculator Policy

The PSSA is designed so that calculators are not necessary for students to be successful. If students choose to use a calculator on the portions of the PSSA for which calculators are permitted then they must adhere to the guidelines listed below. It is incumbent upon the school test coordinator to ensure that all calculator policies are implemented and followed, including making sure calculators have no programs stored in their memory. Please note that if a student wants to restore the deleted programs he or she will have to back them up prior to the assessment.

## Math 2011

### The following are NOT allowed for the PSSA:

- Non-calculators such as cell phones, PDAs, laptops, minicomputers, pocket organizers, etc.
- Beaming capabilities. (These must be disabled.)
- Wireless communication technologies. Calculators having wireless communication technologies may be used if those technologies are disabled.
- Calculators with QWERTY keyboards or other typewriter-like keyboards or keypads (e.g. Dvorak).

## Math 2011

### The following are NOT allowed for the PSSA:

- Calculators with built in Computer Algebra Systems – CAS.
- Calculators that make noise, have paper tape, need to be plugged in or talk unless these specific calculators are required as an accommodation. (Please refer to the Accommodations Manual.)
- Sharing calculators by students during a test session.
- All programs / information stored in a calculator. These must be deleted prior to using that calculator on any section of the PSSA. Typically these are graphing calculators but scientific calculators may also contain stored programs.

## Math 2011

- This is intended to be a general description of what is **not** allowed. It is not meant to be an exhaustive list of specific calculators, devices or technologies that cannot be used on the PSSA.
- As technology changes this policy will be reviewed and may also change.

## Math 2011

### Grade 3:

- **CANNOT** use calculators
- Answers marked in test booklet

### Grade 4 and up:

- Calculators **ARE** permitted on all but the beginning few items.\*
- Rulers will be provided at grades where needed.  
Students must use the rulers provided for the PSSA.
- Rulers scaled in centimeters and inches.
- Protractors are provided as needed within the item itself.



## Anchor Cards

- go to [www.education.state.pa.us](http://www.education.state.pa.us) then Programs, then Programs S-Z, then Teacher Support, then Standards and Curriculum, then Mathematics, then 2007 Assessment Anchor Cards.
- [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/mathematics/7538/2007\\_assessment\\_anchor\\_cards/508350](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/mathematics/7538/2007_assessment_anchor_cards/508350)

## Math Performance Level Cut Scores

Performance Level	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 11
Advanced	1370 and up	1445 and up	1483 and up	1476 and up	1472 and up	1446 and up	1509 and up
Proficient	1180-1369	1246-1444	1312-1482	1298-1475	1298-1471	1284-1445	1304-1508
Basic	1044-1179	1156-1245	1158-1311	1174-1297	1183-1297	1171-1283	1167-1303
Below Basic	750-1043	700-1155	700-1157	700-1173	700-1182	700-1170	700-1166

## PSSA-M Math

- The “2%” test
- Was offered for Math only in 2010
- Math, Reading and Science are operational in 2011
- See *Guidelines for IEP Teams: Assigning Students With IEPs to State Tests (ASIST) 2011* for eligibility guidelines

## PSSA-M Math

- A shorter, less difficult test
- 30 MC items and 2 OE items (38 points total)
- Items are revised. For example:
  - Simplified wording
  - More white space
  - “nicer” numbers
  - Larger font

## PSSA-M Math

- 2 sections, not 3
- Recommended to be administered in a separate setting
- Recommended to administer all sections of one content area, then all sections of the other (e.g. all Math then all Reading)
- All accommodations available for the PSSA are also available for the PSSA-M

## PSSA-M Math

- Item sampler is available online
- There will be a document that explains what was done to the items
- Hints are provided with the item where appropriate



**Charlie Wayne**  
**Division of Assessment**  
**717-783-0358**  
**[CWayne@state.pa.us](mailto:CWayne@state.pa.us)**

# **PSSA READING ASSESSMENT 2011**

# Alignment and the Assessment Anchor Content Standards

## A. Comprehension and Reading Skills

1. Fiction

2. Nonfiction

## B. Interpretation and Analysis of Fiction and Nonfiction

1. Components within or between texts

2. Literary Devices

3. Concepts and Organization of Nonfiction Text

## About the Eligible Content

- The Eligible Content at each grade level shows the range of knowledge and skills drawn upon to design the PSSA for that grade level.
- Examining the Eligible Content across grade levels shows the progression of expectations from one grade to the next.

## About the Test

- Three Reading Sections on the PSSA
- Math and Reading sections alternate
  - Math: Sections 1, 3, 5
  - Reading: Sections 2, 4, 6
- Alignment with PA Academic Standards: Assesses knowledge and skills described in the Assessment Anchor Content Standards
- Target Passage Types
  - Eligible passage genres identified at each grade level

# Reading Test Question Types

- Multiple-choice questions
  - Each is worth 1 point
  
- Open-ended questions
  - Each is worth 3 points
  - Responses are scored using item-specific scoring guidelines

## How Are Responses Scored?

- Multiple-choice responses are bubbled in by the student and scored by machine.
  - 1 point each
- Open-ended responses are written out by the student and scored by trained raters.
  - 3 points are possible for each
  - Item-specific scoring guide
- Grade 3
  - Students write in test booklets
- Grades 4 – 8 & 11
  - Students write in answer booklets

## Grade 3

- 3 sessions
- Sections 2, 4, & 6 (alternates w/Math)
- Approximately 50 - 70 minutes each
- Target Passage Types for Common Passages
  - 2 Stories
  - 1 Poem
  - 1 Informational
  - 1 Autobiography/Biography  
or 1 Practical/How-to/Advertisement
- 58 Multiple-choice items (40 common items)
- 3 Open-ended items (2 common items)
- Students write **ALL** answers in test booklet

## Grade 3 Test Format

Approximate length	Number of Multiple-Choice Items (1 point each)			Number of Open-Ended Items (3 points each)		
	Common	Equating Block	Field Test	Common	Equating Block	Field Test
50 - 70 minutes each section	40	8	10	2	0	1
Total 155 – 215 minutes	Student score ( <b>Common Only</b> ): 46 points Total points on each test: 67					

## Grades 4-8 & 11

- 3 sessions
- Sections 2, 4, & 6 (alternates w/Math)
- Approximately 50 –75 minutes each
- Target Passage Types (mix varies by grade)
  - Story (all grades)
  - Poem (all grades)
  - Informational (all grades)
  - Autobiography/Biography (eligible at all grades)
  - Practical/How-to/Advertisement
  - Essay/Editorial (grades 5, 6, 7, 8, & 11)
- 58 Multiple-choice items (40 common items)
- 5 Open-ended items (4 common items)
- Students write answers in answer booklet

## Grades 4–8 & 11 Test Format

Approximate length	Number of Multiple-Choice Items (1 point each)			Number of Open-Ended Items (3 points each)		
	Common	Equating Block	Field Test	Common	Equating Block	Field Test
50 - 75 minutes each section	40	8	10	4	0	1
Total 155 – 185 minutes	Student score <b>(Common Only)</b> : 52 points Total points on each test: 73					

## Reading Reporting Clusters

Grade	Comprehension and Reading Skills (Category A)	Literature and Interpretation (Category B)
<b>3</b>	<b>60-80 %</b>	<b>20-40 %</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>60-80 %</b>	<b>20-40 %</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>60-80 %</b>	<b>20-40 %</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>50-70 %</b>	<b>30-50 %</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>50-70 %</b>	<b>30-50 %</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>40-60 %</b>	<b>40-60 %</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>40-60 %</b>	<b>40-60 %</b>

## Genre Coverage

Grade	Fiction (and Nonfiction) Narrative	Nonfiction
<b>3</b>	<b>50-70%</b>	<b>30-50%</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>50-70%</b>	<b>30-50%</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>50-70%</b>	<b>30-50%</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>40-60%</b>	<b>40-60%</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>40-60%</b>	<b>40-60%</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>40-60%</b>	<b>40-60%</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>30-50%</b>	<b>50-70%</b>

## Reading Scale Score Ranges by Performance Level and Grade

Level	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 11
Advanced	1442 and up	1469 and up	1497 and up	1456 and up	1470 and up	1473 and up	1492 and up
Proficient	1235-1441	1255-1468	1275-1496	1278-1455	1279-1469	1280-1472	1257-1491
Basic	1168-1234	1112-1254	1137-1274	1121-1277	1131-1278	1146-1279	1112-1256
Below Basic	1000-1167	700-1111	700-1136	700-1120	700-1130	700-1145	700-1111

## Not the Same!

- Performance Level Descriptors

- Advanced
- Proficient
- Basic
- Below Basic



- Scores on Open-Ended Reading Questions

- 3 points
- 2 points
- 1 point
- 0 points

- 1) Scores on open-ended questions contribute to a student's raw score.
- 2) The student's raw score is converted to a scale score.
- 3) The student's scale score is interpreted as a Performance Level.

## PSSA Reading Assessment Accommodations

- Certain accommodations are available for students taking the PSSA Reading assessments.
- Test administrator may *not* read aloud any part of the reading passages or reading test questions and answer choices.
- Please refer to PDE's *Accommodations Guidelines* documents for further information.

## Student's English Language Learner (ELL) status:

- ELL and enrolled in a U.S. school **after** May 7, 2010 (previous enrollment in Puerto Rico is not considered as enrollment in U.S. schools). – Excused from PSSA Reading.
- ELL and enrolled in a U.S. school **on or before** May 7, 2010. – Must take all PSSA subjects.
- Exited an ESL/bilingual program and in the first year of monitoring. – Must take all PSSA subjects.
- Exited an ESL/bilingual program and in the second year of monitoring. – Must take all PSSA subjects.

## ELLs and PSSA Reading

### When should a first-year ELL take the PSSA Reading test?

Students who are expected to exit LEP (ESL) services, even in their first year in a U.S. school, should take the PSSA Reading test. This is because PSSA Reading test scores are used as part of the exit criteria for those services. Students who do not take the PSSA will not have the opportunity to register a PSSA score for program exit.

# **PSSA-M READING ASSESSMENT**

**March 14 - March 25, 2011**

## PSSA –M Reading

- PSSA-M Reading tests, grades 4-8 and 11  
– March 14-25, 2011
- In 2011, students taking the PSSA-M Reading test will not take the general PSSA Reading test
- In 2010-2011, PSSA-M Reading scores will be included in AYP calculations.

**Note: No PSSA-M has been developed for  
Grade 3**

## About the PSSA-M Test

- One separate booklet
- Two Sections
- Same alignment with PA Academic Standards:  
Assesses knowledge and skills described in the  
Assessment Anchor Content Standards at grade-level
- Target Passage Types
  - Same eligible passage genres as identified at each grade level for the general PSSA
- Reduced complexity and density of information
- Fewer items

## PSSA-M Reading Test Question Types

- Multiple-choice questions
  - Each is worth 1 point
- Open-ended questions
  - Each is worth 3 points
  - Responses are scored using item-specific scoring guidelines

## How Are Responses Scored?

- Multiple-choice responses are bubbled in by the student and scored by machine.
  - 1 point each
- Open-ended responses are written out by the student and scored by trained raters.
  - 3 points are possible for each
  - Item-specific scoring guide
- Students mark and write all responses directly into test booklet (no separate answer sheet).

## Grades 4-8 & 11

- 2 sessions
- Sections 1, 2 (does not alternate w/Math)
- Approximately 50 –75 minutes each
- Target Passage Types - Same eligible passage genres as identified at each grade level for the general PSSA (mix varies by grade)
- 30 Multiple-choice items (all common items)
- 2 Open-ended items (all common items)
- Students write answers in test booklet

# 2010-2011 PSSA-M Reading Blueprint

Reporting Category	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 11
<b>A. Comprehension and Reading Skills</b>	60% - 80%	60% - 80%	50% - 70%	50% - 70%	40% - 60%	40% - 60%
<b>B. Interpretation and Analysis of Fiction and Nonfiction Text</b>	20% - 40%	20% - 40%	30% - 50%	30% - 50%	40% - 60%	40% - 60%

## Grades 4–8 & 11 PSSA-M Test Format

<b>Number of Multiple-Choice Items (1 point each)</b>	<b>Number of Open-Ended Items (3 points each)</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total points on each test: 36 (approximately one-half the number on general PSSA)</b>	

## Types of Modifications

- Simplify language in question and answer choices
- Simplify graphics
- Eliminate extraneous information
- Substitute another (*more familiar*) word without changing the construct
- Reformat items or passages (e.g., adding more white space, size of text)
- Adjust layouts (e.g., reorder items or passages)
- Separate reading passages into chunks, followed by related items

## Types of Enhancements

- Provide a Scaffold
  - Table or map to enhance comprehension (e.g., timeline for organizing chronology)
  - Key words, phrases, terminology (e.g., footnotes or definitions), introductions to passages
- General Presentation: underline or bold key words/phrases/symbols; remove quotation marks; pull-out referent sentences from passage; position graphic with accompanying item

## **PSSA-M Reading Scale Score Ranges**

- In 2010-2011, Achievement Level cut scores will be produced in standard-setting meetings with educator committees after the first operational administration of the PSSA-M Reading test, grades 4-8 and 11.

**Diane Simaska**  
**Division of Assessment**  
**717-346-8064**  
**[dsimaska@state.pa.us](mailto:dsimaska@state.pa.us)**

# PSSA Writing Assessment 2011

## Writing 2011

- Grades 5, 8, & 11
- Multiple-Choice
- Writing Prompts
- Mode-specific Scoring Guidelines for composition
- Conventions scored separately

## Writing 2011

- Parallels with Reading Assessment
- Alignment
  - Standards
  - End of elementary & middle
- Holistic “hybrid” scoring
  - Holistic scoring for composition—more appropriate for large-scale assessments
  - Separate scoring for conventions leaves emphasis on composing
  - Multiple-choice adds validity & reliability

## Who takes the test?

- All students in grades 5, 8, & 11
- Exceptions:
  - ELL students in first 12 months
  - PASA students
    - \* Take an alternate writing test based on IEP goals
    - \* Scored test is stored in IEP folder

## Grade 5

- Multiple-Choice Section given first
  - 5 passages with embedded editing and revision errors
  - 4 questions for each passage
- Writing prompts
  - 2 common prompts
  - 1 field test prompt
  - Any two of three modes
  - Phasing in of “elementary friendly” planning page

[http://www.education.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/pennsylvania\\_system\\_of\\_school\\_assessment\\_%28pssa%29/8757/resource\\_materials/507610](http://www.education.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/pennsylvania_system_of_school_assessment_%28pssa%29/8757/resource_materials/507610)

## Grades 8 & 11

- Multiple-Choice Section given first
  - 5 passages with embedded editing and revision errors
  - 4 questions for each passage
- Writing prompts
  - 2 prompts
  - 1 field test prompt
  - Informational & Persuasive modes only

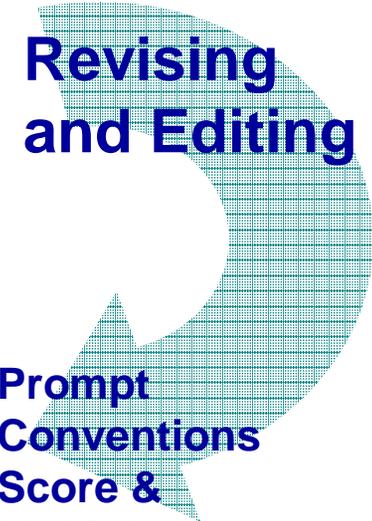
# Pennsylvania Writing Reporting Categories

## Composition

**Prompt Mode Score**  
**80% of Total assessment**

**Writing Standards**  
**1.4, 1.5**

## Revising and Editing



**Prompt**  
**Conventions**  
**Score &**  
**Multiple-**  
**choice**  
**20 % of Total**  
**Assessment**

## How Are Responses Scored?

- Writing prompt responses scored by hand (with 10% read twice)
  - Focus, Content, Organization and Style
    - \* scored holistically
    - \* 1-4 pt. Mode-specific Scoring Guide
  - Editing & Revising:
    - \* scored separately
    - \* 1-4 pt. Conventions Scoring Guideline
- Bubbled multiple-choice responses scored by machine
  - \* 1 pt. each

## Common Score Points

Multiple Choice	Writing Prompts		Totals
	Conventions	Mode	
<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>
12 items each worth 1 point each <b><math>(12 \times 1) = 12</math></b>	2 items each worth a maximum of 4 points each <b><math>(2 \times 4 = 8)</math></b>	2 items each worth a maximum of 4 points each (The raw score is multiplied by 10) <b><math>(2 \times 4) \times 10 = 80</math></b>	<b><math>12 + 8 + 80 = 100</math></b>

**Field test items are not reflected in this chart.  
No scores are reported for field test items.**

## Non-scorable

- Illegible
  - Incoherent
  - Insufficient
  - Blank paper
- 
- Off-prompt: Still receives a Conventions score
  - Off-mode: loss of 1 point in Composition score

## 2011 Writing Test Format

Session	Approx. Minutes	Number of Test Items	Conventions Score Points	Composition Score Points
1	50	20 Multiple Choice	12 (Common Only)	0
2	60	1 Writing Prompt	4 (if prompt is Common) N/A (if prompt is Field Test)	4 (if prompt is Common) N/A (if prompt is Field Test)
3	60	1 Writing Prompt	4 (if prompt is Common) N/A (if prompt is Field Test)	4 (if prompt is Common) N/A (if prompt is Field Test)
4	60	1 Writing Prompt	4 (if prompt is Common) N/A (if prompt is Field Test)	4 (if prompt is Common) N/A (if prompt is Field Test)

## Writing Scaled Score Ranges by Grade and Performance level

Performance level	Grade 5	Grade 8	Grade 11
Advanced	1909 and up	1748 and up	1806 and up
Proficient	1236- 1908	1236- 1747	1236- 1805
Basic	745- 1235	914- 1746	952- 1804
Below Basic	700- 744	700- 913	700- 951

## Resources

- Assessment Handbook
  - PDE website under PSSA Resource Materials
- Standards Aligned System
  - <http://www.pdesas.org/>
- PA Writing Project :Strategies and Lessons for the Teaching of Writing
  - Interactive web-based tool <http://www2.lv.psu.edu/ce/pwpn/>
  - Reproducible Quick Reference Cards
  - Instructional Writing Strategies
  - Standards-aligned
  - Domain-focused
  - 3, 5, 8 ,& 11 Grade levels
  - Complete lesson plans
  - PWPN teacher consultants
- Complete lesson plans
- PWPN teacher consultants

**Diane Simaska**  
**Division of Assessment**  
**717-346-8064**  
**[dsimaska@state.pa.us](mailto:dsimaska@state.pa.us)**

***ACCESS FOR ELLs***  
**English Language**  
**Proficiency**  
**ASSESSMENT**  
**2011**

## What is the *ACCESS for ELLs*?

*ACCESS for ELLs* is the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's English Language Proficiency (ELP) Assessment. PDE is a member of the WIDA Consortium, which maintains the test.

The *ACCESS for ELLs* tests students' Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking skills for social and academic purposes.

More information on the WIDA and PA ELP standards and performance level descriptors can be found at the WIDA website, <http://www.wida.us/standards/elp.aspx>.

# ***ACCESS for ELLs* Test Window**

**January 24 – March 4, 2011**

## Who takes the *ACCESS*?

Students designated as LEP (Limited English Proficiency), also referred to as ELLs (English Language Learners) must take the *ACCESS for ELLs*.

Every ELL, grades K-12, participates in the *ACCESS for ELLs* testing.

## ***ACCESS for ELLs* Participants**

- All current ELLs, K-12
- **Not** former ELLs (exited and in year 1 or year 2 of monitoring, or no longer in monitoring)

## Student's English Language Learner (ELL) status:

- Current ELLs (PIMS field 41 is coded "01") take ACCESS for ELLs.
- Date of first enrollment in a U.S. school does not affect participation. All current ELLs, K-12, take ACCESS for ELLs.
- Former ELL, exited an ESL/bilingual program, and in the first year of monitoring. – DO NOT take ACCESS for ELLs.
- Former ELL, exited an ESL/bilingual program, and in the second year of monitoring. – DO NOT take ACCESS for ELLs.

## What about ELLs with IEPs or 504 Plans?

- All ELLs, grades K-12, participate in the *ACCESS*.
- This includes ELLs with IEPs and/or 504 plans.
- ELLs with IEPs and/or 504 plans may receive appropriate accommodations. (These do not include translation or interpretation of the test.) Check the *ACCESS for ELLs* Test Administrator Manual for more information.

## What about ELLs who qualify for the PASA?

- All ELLs, grades K-12, participate in the *ACCESS for ELLs*.
- This includes ELLs who qualify for the PASA.
- There are plans to implement an *Alternate ACCESS* for students with severe cognitive disabilities. The *Alternate ACCESS* is still under development. For more information, see the WIDA Consortium web site, [www.wida.us](http://www.wida.us).
- Further guidance on a case-by-case basis is available through the Bureau of Special Education

## Who produces the *ACCESS for ELLs*?

- Pennsylvania participates in the WIDA Consortium; the Consortium provides professional development and tester training and also manages test development.
- Distribution, scoring, and score reporting are accomplished by a WIDA contractor, Metritech.
- More information is available at [www.wida.us](http://www.wida.us), by emailing [help@wida.us](mailto:help@wida.us), or by calling toll free 1-866-276-7735.

## Who oversees the *ACCESS for ELLs* in PA?

- Pennsylvania Department of Education's Bureau of Teaching and Learning Support in cooperation with PDE's Bureau of Assessment and Accountability oversee the *ACCESS for ELLs* in Pennsylvania.
- At the PDE website you can find more information about *ACCESS for ELLs* and other services for English Language Learners at the ESL program page:  
[http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/english\\_as\\_a\\_second\\_language/7529](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/english_as_a_second_language/7529)

**PSSA**  
**Science**  
**Assessment**  
**2011**

## Science 2011

- All students in grades 4, 8, & 11
- Exceptions:
  - PASA students
    - \* Take an alternate science test based on IEP goals
    - \* Scored test is stored in IEP folder
  - PSSA-M is operational for students beginning in 2011

## Science 2011

- Criterion Reference
- 4 Reporting Categories
  - The Nature of Science
  - Biological Sciences
  - Physical Sciences
  - Earth and Space Sciences
- Embedded Field Test
- Open-Ended items scored on a 0-2 and 0-4 scale
- Item-specific scoring guidelines.

# Science 2011

## District and School Reporting

### **A. The Nature of Science**

1. Reasoning and Analysis
2. Processes, Procedures, and  
Tools of Scientific Investigation
3. Systems, Models, and Patterns

# Science 2011

## District and School Reporting

### **B. Biological Sciences**

1. Structure and Function of Organisms
2. Continuity of Life
3. Ecological Behavior and Systems

# Science 2011

## District and School Reporting

### C. Physical Sciences

1. Structure, Properties and Interactions of Matter
2. Forms, Sources, Conversions, and Transfer of Energy
3. Principles of Force and Motion

# Science 2011

## District and School Reporting

### **D. Earth and Spaces Sciences**

1. Earth Features and Processes that  
Change Earth and Its Resources
2. Weather, Climate, and Atmospheric  
Processes
3. Composition and Structure of the  
Universe

# Science 2011

## Science Test Composition

**50%** Nature of Science

**(Inquiry)**

**50%** Biological Science

Physical Science

Earth and Space Science

**(Content)**

## Science 2011 Test Blueprint

Reporting Category	Grade 4	Grade 8	Grade 11
The Nature of Science	34 50%	34 50%	37 50%
Biological Sciences	12 17.6%	12 17.6%	13 17.6%
Physical Sciences	11 16.2%	11 16.2%	12 16.2%
Earth and Space Sciences	11 16.2%	11 16.2%	12 16.2%
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>68 points</b>	<b>68 points</b>	<b>74 points</b>

## Science Performance Level Cut Scores

Performance Level	Grade 4	Grade 8	Grade 11
Advanced	1483 and up	1464 and up	1347 and up
Proficient	1275-1482	1275-1463	1275-1346
Basic	1150-1274	1150-1274	1150-1274
Below Basic	1050-1149	925-1149	1050-1149

## Science 2011

Student score comes from:

- Grades 4 and 8
  - 58 Multiple Choice items
  - 5 Open-Ended items (2 points each)
- Grade 11
  - 50 Multiple Choice items
  - 6 Open-ended items (2 points each)
  - 3 Open-ended items (4 points each)

## Science 2011

### Total number of items:

- Grade 4
  - 68 Multiple Choice Items
  - 7 Open-Ended Items
- Grade 8
  - 70 Multiple Choice Items
  - 7 Open-Ended Items
- Grade 11
  - 62 Multiple Choice Items
  - 11 Open-Ended Items

# 2011 Science Blueprint

		Total Number of Multiple Choice Items per Student				Total Number of Open-Ended Items per Student				Total Number of points (Common Items Only)
GRADE	Approx Length	Common Items	Common Scenario Items	Equating Block Items	Field Test Items	Common Items (2 points each)	Common Scenario Items (4 points each)	Equating Block Items	Field Test items	Number of Score Points per Student
4	110-115 Minutes 2 Sections	58	0	2	8	5	0	1	1	58+10=68
8	120-125 Minutes 2 Sections	54	4	2	10	5	0	1	1	58+10=68
11	175-180 Minutes 3 Sections	38	12	2	10	6	3	0	2	50+12+12=74

# **PSSA-M Science Assessment**

**April 4 – April 8, 2011**

## Science PSSA-M

- The PSSA-M is a statewide assessment based on modified achievement standards for students with disabilities. The assessment is intended for students with disabilities functioning above the lowest 1% of the population, but not at a level that allows them to access the general PSSA assessment.

## Science PSSA-M

- The assessment anchor content standards are the same for the PSSA-M as they are for the general PSSA assessment. However, modified items may be used to measure the content standards in the PSSA-M.
- Modifications may include enlarged font sizes, the use of bold-faced text, simplified or reduced text, easier vocabulary, extra spacing, simplified or reduced tasks, and the addition of helpful hints. These modifications create items that are more accessible but still in line with the content standards.
- The PSSA-M reflects the same emphasis and patterns as the general PSSA assessment, while utilizing a simpler style and format. The PSSA-M also contains fewer items than the general PSSA assessment. These modifications are designed to allow students with disabilities to demonstrate proficiency on the assessment.

## Science PSSA-M

- Grades 8 and 11
- 2 Sections
- 30 Multiple Choice (**Common Items Only**)
- 2 open-ended (**Common Items Only**)

## Science PSSA-M Test Blueprint

Reporting Category	Grade 8	Grade 11
The Nature of Science	17 50%	17 50%
Biological Sciences	5-6 16.7%	5-6 16.7%
Physical Sciences	5-6 16.7%	5-6 16.7%
Earth and Space Sciences	5-6 16.7%	5-6 16.7%
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>34 points</b>	<b>34 points</b>

# 2011 Science PSSA-M Blueprint

		Total Number of Multiple Choice Items per Student				Total Number of Open-Ended Items per Student				Total Number of points (Common Items Only)	
G R A D E	Approx Length	Common Items				Common Items (2 points each)				Number of Score Points per Student	
	8	70 Minutes 2 Sections	30				2				30+4=34
	11	70 Minutes 2 Sections	30				2				30+4=34

**Craig Weller**  
**Division of Assessment**  
**(717) 525-5825**  
**[crweller@state.pa.us](mailto:crweller@state.pa.us)**

## National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

- NAEP is a congressionally mandated project overseen by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) to continuously monitor the knowledge, skills, and performance of the nation's children and youth.
- As the “Nation’s Report Card” it measures and reports on a regular basis what America’s students know and can do in core subjects like reading, mathematics, writing and science
- <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>

## NAEP 2011

- In Pennsylvania, NAEP is required of the randomly selected schools.
- Grades tested are 4, 8 and 12.
- Main subjects are Math, Reading, Science, Writing and Economics
- Additionally – Writing for grades 8 and 12 will be computer based.
- Writing will not be assessed in grade 4.

## NAEP 2011

- NAEP is administered by Westat Inc., the contractor for the U. S. Department of Education.
- Testing window January 24 to March 4, 2011.
- Testing time is usually 90 minutes. For grades 8 and 12 computer based Writing, the testing time will be 120 minutes. Students with accommodations may require additional time.

## NAEP 2011

- Grades and schools are randomly selected according to criteria from the U. S. Department of Education
- Reporting dates for NAEP 2011 Writing, U. S. History, Civics and Geography are not yet available.
- Reporting for NAEP 2010 Mathematics was October 2010
- Reporting for NAEP 2010 Reading will be in the Spring of 2011, due to new framework for NAEP.
- Reporting for NAEP 2010 Science will be in the late Spring or Summer of 2011.

**Jack Hoerner**  
**NAEP Coordinator**  
**Division of Assessment**  
**717-787-4865**  
**[jhoerner@state.pa.us](mailto:jhoerner@state.pa.us)**

## Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) 2011

- Provides reliable and timely data on the mathematics and science achievement of U.S. 4th- and 8th-grade students compared to that of students in other countries. TIMSS data have been collected in 1995, 1999, 2003, and 2007.
- More than 60 countries and jurisdictions, including the United States, will participate in TIMSS 2011. More than 20,000 students in more than 1,000 schools across the United States will take the assessment in spring 2011. These U.S. students will join almost 500,000 other students around the world taking part in TIMSS.

## Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) 2011

- In addition, to address the interest in states benchmarking to international standards, NCES is initiating a new effort to link the states scores from the national assessment—NAEP-- to TIMSS. The 2011 NAEP-TIMSS Linking Study is designed to provide all states with estimates that compare their own students' performance against international benchmarks.
- Read more about the 2011 NAEP-TIMSS at the following Link:  
<http://ies.ed.gov/whatsnew/newsletters/july10.asp?index=roundnces#timss>

## Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) 2011

- The current schedule for TIMSS 2011 is as follows:
  - **Spring 2011:** data collection in schools across the United States
  - **Summer 2011:** data scoring and coding
  - **Fall 2011:** initial data submission to the IEA
  - **Winter 2011:** initial data review and cleaning
  - **Spring 2012:** data calibration, scaling, and weighting
  - **Summer 2012:** data review by participating countries
  - **December 2012:** data release

## Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) 2011

- PIRLS is an international comparative study of the reading literacy of young students. PIRLS studies the reading achievement and reading behaviors and attitudes of fourth-grade students in the United States and students in the equivalent of fourth grade in other participating countries.
- PIRLS was first administered in 2001 and included 35 countries, and was administered again in 2006 to students in 45 education systems (including countries and subnational education systems, such as Canadian provinces and Hong Kong, a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China). Read more about PIRLS at this Link:

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2008017>

## TIMSS / PIRLS 2011

- The next PIRLS assessment takes place in 2011. The field test was administered in spring 2010. PIRLS is coordinated by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA).
- Because the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) will also be administered at grade four in spring 2011, TIMSS and PIRLS in the United States will be administered in the same schools to the extent feasible. Students will take either TIMSS or PIRLS on the day of the assessments.

## Classroom Diagnostic Tools

- The Pennsylvania Department of Education has completed development of Mathematics Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDTs) to support teachers and students in grades 6 through 12. These tools - available at no cost to districts - are fully integrated and aligned in the Standards Aligned System (SAS) and enable educators to identify students' academic strengths and areas of need as well as links to classroom resources.
- The CDT's were developed in stages, starting with a field test of mathematics items in late April through mid-May 2010. The field test included students in grade 3 and above (including students in Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry). Participation was voluntary.
- Further CDT development is underway for science and reading/literature this year.

Dr. Richard Maraschiello

## Monitoring

- In 2007 PDE began monitoring schools and districts regarding test security, administration, etc. This process will continue in 2011. All visits will be unannounced.
- PDE representatives are treated *very* well.

**THANK YOU!**



Office of Elementary/Secondary Education  
Amy Morton, Deputy Secretary

Bureau of Assessment and Accountability  
John Weiss, Director

Division of Assessment  
Ray Young, Chief



*The mission of the Pennsylvania Department of Education is to lead and serve the educational community, to enable each individual to grow into an inspired, productive, fulfilled lifelong learner.*