

Why is my child required to take a mathematics test each year?

New Mexico is required by the Federal law, *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB), to test children in mathematics and reading every year. One of the goals of NCLB is to make sure each child has access to quality instruction, and the test provides documentation of student growth in relation to our state math standards. The test, the New Mexico Standards Based Assessment (NMSBA), is rated in the top eleven in the U.S. and the New Mexico math standards are in the top four as far as rigor.

Who is required to take the test?

All students in Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11, including all English Language Learners and most students with special needs, are required to take the NMSBA.

What does the mathematics test look like?

The NMSBA includes multiple choice items where students bubble in the correct answer (A, B, C, or D) and open-ended items where students must produce either short or long written responses. The test requires students to solve problems using reasoning and proof, representation, and communication skills.

There are four performance levels for the state test: beginning step, nearing proficiency, proficient, and advanced. Even though there are high expectations for all students, the schools' efforts are to get all students to the proficient level.

What do the test results mean?

Test results are only one indication of your child's success in school. There are many other on-going classroom assessments that help inform instruction and support student learning. The test results should be used to learn how to support student learning.