(Required by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by ESSA 2015)

This document provides clear, accessible information about all federal, state, and county-required assessments administered in West Virginia schools. Each section includes what the test measures, why it is given, when it occurs, and how results are shared.

Federal and State Required Assessments 2026/2027

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

Subjects Assessed

- Mathematics
- Reading
- Civics
- U.S. History
- Science (administered on a periodic schedule)
- Grades 4, 8, and 12 depending on the subject

Purpose

NAEP measures what students across the nation know and can do. It provides comparisons among states, large urban districts, and student groups. Only a representative sample of students participates.

Requirements

- **Federal:** Public Law 114-95 (ESEA, as amended by ESSA 2015)
- **State:** WV Constitution Article XII; WVBE Policy 2340

Time to Complete

- About 2 hours

Assessment Window

- Six-week window: last week of January through first week of March
- Each selected school receives one assigned testing day
- Assessment schedule set by the National Assessment Governing Board

Results Dissemination

- National and state results for reading and math released in the fall
- Science results released at the national level only

West Virginia General Summative Assessment (WVGSA)

Subjects Assessed

- ELA (including writing) and Mathematics: Grades 3–8
- Science: Grades 5 and 8

Purpose

Measures student performance on West Virginia content standards and provides information about progress toward college and career readiness.

Requirements

- **Federal:** ESEA as amended by ESSA 2015
- **State:** WV Constitution Article XII; WVBE Policy 2340

Time to Complete

- Untimed
- About 2 hours per content session
- ELA includes an extended writing task

Assessment Window

- Spring statewide window: **April 26–May 28, 2027**
- Counties set local schedules within this window

Results Dissemination

- Results appear in the Cambium Reporting System beginning late April
- Scores available shortly after each test is completed
- Parents access individual results through the online family portal

SAT School Day

Subjects Assessed

- Reading/Writing
- Math (includes science-related items)

Purpose

A nationally recognized college- and career-readiness assessment accepted by colleges and universities. It also qualifies students for the Promise Scholarship.

Requirements

- **Federal:** ESEA as amended by ESSA 2015
- **State:** WV Constitution Article XII; WVBE Policy 2340

Time to Complete

- 2 hours, 14 minutes

Assessment Window

- **April 5–16, 2027**

Results Dissemination

- Students receive scores in the College Board's reporting system about three weeks after testing
- Counties and schools receive results in late May

West Virginia Alternate Summative Assessment (WVASA / DLM)

Subjects Assessed

- ELA and Math: Grades 3–8, 11
- Science: Grades 5, 8, 11

Purpose

Measures academic performance based on the West Virginia Alternate Academic Achievement Standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

Requirements

- **Federal:** ESEA as amended by ESSA 2015
- **State:** WV Constitution Article XII; WVBE Policy 2340

Time to Complete

- Untimed
- 7–9 short testlets per subject
- Each testlet takes about 3–5 minutes

Assessment Window

- **April 5–May 14, 2027**

Results Dissemination

- Scores released to the state in July
- Schools and teachers access results in August
- Individual student reports sent home in August

ELPA21 / Alternate ELPA

Subjects Assessed

- Speaking
- Listening
- Writing
- Reading
- Grades K–12

Purpose

Measures English language proficiency for students identified as English Learners.

Requirements

- **Federal:** ESEA as amended by ESSA 2015
- **State:** WV Constitution Article XII; WVBE Policy 2340

Time to Complete

- Untimed
- 24–104 minutes depending on grade band
- Alt-ELPA includes 40–50 items

Assessment Window

- **February 9–March 19, 2027**

Results Dissemination

- Districts receive results by early May
- Reports provided to parents by the end of the school year

State-Required Benchmarks and Screeners (K–8)

Subjects Assessed

- ELA
- Dyslexia screeners
- Mathematics

Purpose

Used to identify student needs early and monitor progress throughout the year.

- Required for Grades K–3 (ELA, dyslexia, math)
- Required for Grades 4–8 (benchmarks)

Requirements

- WV Code §18-2E-10 and §18-20-10

Time to Complete

- Varies by assessment

Assessment Window

- First 30 days of school
- Mid-year
- End-of-year (or WVGSA for Grades 4–8)

Results Dissemination

- Varies by assessment
- Counties must report data to WVDE

Golden Horseshoe (Middle School Social Studies)

Subjects Assessed

- Middle school social studies

Purpose

Measures cumulative knowledge of West Virginia social studies content.

Requirements

- WV Code §18-2-9

Time to Complete

- Untimed; typically 45–60 minutes

Assessment Window

- Two-week window in February and March

Results Dissemination

- Reported to county superintendent and county contact
- Released after the state Golden Horseshoe ceremony in June

High School U.S. History Exam

Subjects Assessed

- U.S. History

Purpose

Measures cumulative knowledge of U.S. History at the end of the student's final U.S. History course.

Requirements

- WV Code §18-2-9

Time to Complete

- About 45 minutes; untimed

Assessment Window

- Administered at the end of the course
- Block schedule: January–December
- Period schedule: April–June

Results Dissemination

- Reported in the online Social Studies Assessment Monitoring tool
- Local districts determine how results are shared with students

High School Civics Exam

Subjects Assessed

- Civics

Purpose

Measures cumulative civics knowledge and fulfills the citizenship test requirement.

Requirements

- WV Code §18-2-9

Time to Complete

- About 45 minutes; untimed

Assessment Window

- Administered at the end of the civics course
- Block schedule: January–December
- Period schedule: April–June

Results Dissemination

- Reported in the online Social Studies Assessment Monitoring tool
- Local districts determine how results are shared

FitnessGram®

Subjects Assessed

- Physical fitness components:
    - Aerobic capacity
    - Muscular strength
    - Muscular endurance
    - Flexibility
    - Body composition

Purpose

Assesses health-related fitness for students in Grades 4–8 and the required high school course.

Requirements

- WV Code §18-2-7(a)

Time to Complete

- Varies by class size and component

Assessment Window

- No statewide window
- Counties require scores at year-end check-out

Results Dissemination

- Determined locally

Health Education Assessment Project (HEAP)

Subjects Assessed

- Health and wellness education

Purpose

Measures student health knowledge and program effectiveness.

Requirements

- Healthy Lifestyles Act (HB 2816, 2005)

Time to Complete

- About 40 minutes; untimed

Assessment Window

- Determined by the teacher

Results Dissemination

- Class scores available in the HEAP portal
- Individual student scores are not reported

Additional State-Offered Assessments

West Virginia Modules

Subjects Assessed

- ELA and Mathematics (Grades 3–8)

Purpose

Short assessments that measure small “chunks” of content to support instructional planning.

Requirements

- Optional; counties may choose to require them

Time to Complete

- Untimed; 5–20 questions

Assessment Window

- Determined by counties

Results Dissemination

- Results appear immediately in the Cambium Reporting System

CTE Technical Assessment – Pre-Test

Subjects Assessed

- Pre-test aligned to each CTE program of study

Purpose

Provides a baseline measure of student proficiency.

Requirements

- Optional; counties choose whether to administer

Time to Complete

- Varies by assessment
- May be administered in up to three sessions

Assessment Window

- September 1–November 30

Results Dissemination

- Preliminary results shown to students immediately
- Reports generated within 48 hours for instructors and administrators

CTE Technical Assessment – Post-Test

Subjects Assessed

- Technical assessment aligned to each CTE program of study

Purpose

Measures technical skills gained during the program.

Requirements

- Optional; counties choose whether to administer

Time to Complete

- Varies by assessment
- May be administered in up to three sessions

Assessment Window

- September 1–June 30

Results Dissemination

- Preliminary results shown immediately
- Reports and certificates generated within 48 hours