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Understanding the New York State 3-8 Math and ELA Assessments in the Hilton Central School District



In the spring of 2010, students enrolled in Hilton Central School District in grades 3-8 took New York State assessments in Mathematics and English Language Arts. These assessments reflect the standards set for students in grades 3-8, and helps ensure that students are prepared for high school and beyond. The Hilton Central School District uses the scores indicated by these state assessments, along with your child's performance in the classroom, to measure the progress your student is making toward meeting state standards. The New York State Department of Education (NYSED) sets passing scores for each of these assessments. For the past couple of years, a score of 650 or above translated to a level 3 or 4, and indicated that a student was at the proficient level. This year, NYSED has increased the passing score, which has resulted in a decline of students at the proficient level.

At Hilton Central Schools we are committed to making sure all of our students are making progress towards meeting, as well as exceeding standards. As soon as we receive individual student scoring reports, we will be mailing them to you. Please note that we use the scores on these assessments along with multiple measures to determine each student's academic progress.

We want to make sure that we let all of our Hilton families know about these new cut scores and how they will affect our students. Provided here are a few questions and answers we hope you will find helpful.

Q: What is the definition of "cut scores"?

A: Cut scores are selected points on the score scale of a test. The cut score is then translated into a level score between 1 and 4: 1-below standard, 2-meets basic standard, 3-meets proficiency standard, 4-exceeds proficiency standard.

Q: Why were the cut scores adjusted?

A.: The NYS Commissioner of Education, David Steiner, recommended to the Board of Regents that the cut scores be adjusted. This adjustment is based on a review of research that analyzed how the results on both these assessment indicate whether a student is on-track for success at the college level.

Q: What are the new scores?

A: The 2010 Math and ELA Proficiency Standard scores (Level 3) have changed from 650 where they have been set in the past to these scores:

Grade	Math	ELA
8	673	658
7	670	664
6	674	662
5	674	666
4	676	668
3	684	662

Q: What research was conducted?

A: The state Testing Advisory Group (TAG) and CTB/McGraw-Hill, the state's testing contractor, conducted the research. Analysis was conducted to show how both the NYS math and ELA assessments relate to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) exam; how the state's eighth grade Math and English tests relate to the Regents exams; how performance on the Regents exams relates to SAT scores; and how performance on the Regents exams relates to first-year performance in college.

Q: What is the Hilton Central School District doing to address these changes?

A: Hilton Central School District's curriculum documents are aligned to the New York State Standards. We are committed to teaching to these standards, as well as preparing all students for the NYS Assessments. The State Education Department is now saying that we need to increase the rigor in order for all our students to be proficient on the assessments. We will continue to examine our curriculum, instruction, and assessment in light of these recent changes.

Q: What about Academic Intervention Services (AIS)...will my child be receiving these services if they had previously scored a level 3 and now have scored a level

2?

A: For the 2010-2011 school year only, AIS regulations have been waived so that students who are mandated to receive AIS will be those students who score below the old passing rate of 650.

However, we will be reviewing information on all children who score a level 1 or 2 to determine if a student's academic history indicates they are having difficulty or if it was a low score on a single assessment. We will then provide services accordingly.

Q: Where can I find additional information about these changes?

A: You can refer to the NYS Department of Education's press release for additional information:

http://www.oms.nysed.gov/press/Grade3-8_Results07282010.html

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