




ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, OFFICE OF STATE ASSESSMENT
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January 2024

To: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Schools
Principals of Public Schools
Charter School Leaders
Principals of Religious and Independent Schools
Participating in Computer-based Testing

From: Zachary Warner 

Subject: Statelevel Scoring of Computer-based Elementary and Intermediatelevel Science Tests

The new Elementarylevel (Grade 5) and Intermediatelevel (Grade 8) Science Tests will be administered for the first time in Spring 2024. These tests are designed to assess student achievement of the knowledge and skills contained in New York State Science Learning Standards. As detailed in the [Statewide Implementation of Computer-based Testing \(CBT\) memorandum](#), all students in Grades 5 and 8 will be required to take the 2024 science tests by CBT.

The New York State Education Department (NYSED or the Department) has identified funding to support the implementation of the 2024 science tests. The total amount of funding is \$9.72 million. The funding is allocated as follows: \$8.88 million for the purchase of testing equipment and software, and \$0.84 million for the purchase of testing materials. The funding is allocated as follows: \$8.88 million for the purchase of testing equipment and software, and \$0.84 million for the purchase of testing materials.

Schools do not need to make any arrangements for the scoring of computer science tests. Students' CBT constructed responses will be sent directly to the Department's contractor, NWEA, for scoring once students complete their tests. These responses will be scored in accordance with scoring materials that will also be provided to schools via the Help tab in the Nextera Administration System (Nextera Admin).

Please note that student responses will continue to be available after the test administration for review by teachers and parents. The responses will be viewable in Nextera Admin after June 1, consistent with prior years.

Paper-based sciences tests (i.e., accommodated editions) will still need to be scored at the local level.