

TCAP Science

Grades 3-4 Assessment Overview

Science Assessment Overview

This fact sheet provides information about the science grades 3-4 assessments. The science assessment will assess the Tennessee Academic Standards through measurement of student mastery and will require students to demonstrate a deep conceptual understanding of the three dimensions of science education: disciplinary core ideas, science and engineering practices, and cross-cutting concepts and support the vertical alignment embedded within the standards.

The science TCAP assessments for **grades 3-4** are administered in **one** subpart. Calculators **are not** allowed.

The science assessment for **grade 3** is administered using a **consumable test booklet** in which students will place all answers. All answers for each possible item type are submitted by students writing in the test booklet.

The science assessment for **grade 4** is administered using a **paper-based test booklet and separate answer document**. All answers for each possible item type will be submitted by students writing in the answer document.

For more information on TCAP assessments, click [here](#).

Test Administration Schedule

For a full schedule of all statewide assessments, see the testing administration windows on the department's [website](#).

Within the state testing windows, testing schedules are established **by the district at the school and/or district level**. It is the district's discretion to allow schools to set their own testing schedules, independent of a district testing schedule.

Test Administration Subpart Timing and Structure

The below testing structures for grades 3-4 reflect both the number of operational assessment items and the number of field test assessment items.

Grade	Subpart 1	Calculator Allowed?	Summary
3 rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 50 minutes• 28-32 items	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total Time: 50 minutes• Total Items: 28-32
4 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 50 minutes• 28-32 items	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total Time: 50 minutes• Total Items: 28-32

Assessment Blueprints

Assessment blueprints are designed to show educators a summary of what will be assessed on each assessment. This resource is designed to help educators as they plan for the upcoming school year. Assessment blueprints can be found [here](#) (under the “science” tab).

Item Types

The TCAP science assessments for grades 3-4 are administered using **Selected Response** item types. These item types are used in multiple ways to elicit responses that demonstrate understanding of the Tennessee Academic Standards for Science.

Selected Response items used for the TCAP science assessments can include:

- *Multiple Choice* – These are items with four answer options and only one correct answer. Multiple Choice items are worth one point each.
- *Multiple Select* – These are items with more than four answer options and multiple correct answers. Multiple Select items are worth two points each and students can earn partial credit.

Additional Resources

The department has provided the following resources to support educators and students:

- **SchoolNet** is a TDOE-provided assessment platform. Resources include released items and various formative assessments across all TCAP-assessed contents and grade levels. There are ready-made assessments, as well as item banks for users to access and create custom assessments. SchoolNet can be accessed [here](#).
- **The Assessment Development LiveBinder** houses resources from the TDOE Assessment Team. Examples of resources include blueprints, assessment overviews,

practice tests, item releases, and additional test practice items. The Assessment Development LiveBinder can be found [here](#).

- **TestNav** is the summative assessment platform utilized for administering TCAP assessments. Resources include a TestNav Tutorial and Test Practice Items. TestNav can be found [here](#). TestNav can be found [here](#). Use the directions below for access:
 - Select Tutorials (below the login prompt).
 - Under the desired resource, click Start.
 - Enter your name as “Guest” and select Start.

Additional Information

Please visit the [department’s website](#) for more information about the statewide assessment program.