



**DC  
CAPE**

DC COMPREHENSIVE  
ASSESSMENTS OF  
PROGRESS IN EDUCATION

DC Comprehensive Assessments of  
Progress in Education (DC CAPE)

Spring 2024 Assessment Design  
and Blueprint

ELA Grades 3–8 and High School



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# What is the DC ELA assessment?

Beginning in the 2023-24 school year, DC has implemented a new name for its general statewide assessment system, which includes assessments in English language arts/literacy (ELA), mathematics and science. The District of Columbia Comprehensive Assessments of Progress in Education (DC CAPE) include the DC ELA assessment (DC ELA), the DC Math assessment (DC Math) and the DC Science assessment (DC Science). Together, these assessments create a comprehensive system that provides important information on students' progress and proficiency relative to DC's educational standards.

From 2015 to 2023, DC was a member of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) consortium. As a PARCC member state, DC was able to partner with other states to develop high-quality assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Building upon this foundation, the DC ELA assessment, as part of DC CAPE, will continue the same rigorous development and review process to best measure the same knowledge and skills that matter most for DC students.

# How is the DC ELA assessment administered?

DC ELA is a computer-based assessment that allows for the use of a variety of innovative item types where students can apply critical-thinking skills to demonstrate their understanding of the CCSS.

# Who takes the DC ELA assessment?

In Spring 2024, DC ELA will be administered to students in grades 3 through 8 and to high school students enrolled in courses that cover standards aligned to the ELA I or ELA II assessments.

# What is the DC ELA test design?

DC ELA is completely text based using a variety of media and genre. Reading passage sets consist of literary texts, informational texts, or in the case of a paired passage set, both literary and informational texts, each with a set of associated items. Every item is associated with a single text, a pair of texts, or a trio of print texts and/or multimedia texts.

All operational passages are authentic, permissioned texts. They represent a range of genres as specified in the CCSS and reflect a range of authors and topics by gender, race, and ethnicity. Word-count ranges by grade band are:

- Grades 3–5: 200–800 words
- Grades 6–8: 400–1,000 words
- High school: 500–1,500 words

ELA item types include the following:

- Evidence-Based Selected Response (EBSR)—Machine-scored, two-part items designed to measure reading comprehension. One part of the item measures accuracy, and the other part measures evidence. Items are worth two points. Partial credit is allowed.
- Technology-Enhanced Constructed Response (TECR)—Machine-scored items that use technology such as drag and drop, hot spot, and drop-down menus. TECR items can be one or two parts and are worth two points. Partial credit is allowed.
- Prose Constructed Response (PCR)—Machine- or hand-scored items designed to measure reading and/or writing. PCR items are worth 12–19 points, depending on task type.

Within each section, students are presented with one or more of the following tasks:

- Literary Analysis Task (LAT)—Students analyze two literary texts for similarities and differences. The LAT includes:
  - Six reading comprehension and vocabulary items, typically four EBSRs and two TECRs
  - One expository PCR item
- Research Simulation Task (RST)—Students analyze and synthesize two or three informational texts. The RST includes:
  - Grade 3: Six reading comprehension and vocabulary items, typically four EBSRs and two TECRs and one expository PCR
  - Grades 4–High School: Eight reading comprehension and vocabulary items, typically six EBSRs and two TECRs and one expository PCR
- Narrative Writing Task (NWT)—Students analyze one literary text for reading comprehension. The NWT includes:

- Four reading comprehension and vocabulary items
- One narrative PCR
- Short and Long or Paired Passage Sets—Students respond to EBSR and TECR items that assess Reading. The composition of each set type is:
  - Short passage sets: Four reading comprehension and vocabulary items. There is no PCR.
  - Long or paired passage sets: Six reading comprehension and vocabulary items. There is no PCR.

Table 1 summarizes the structure of the Spring 2024 DC ELA assessment.

Table 1: Spring 2024 DC ELA Assessment		
Grade/Course	Section*	Section Testing Time (Minutes)
3	Section 1	75
	Section 2	75
	Section 3	75
4-5	Section 1	90
	Section 2	90
	Section 3	90
6-8	Section 1	90
	Section 2	90
	Section 3	90
ELA I ELA II	Section 1	90
	Section 2	90
	Section 3	90

\*One of the three sections is a field test section.

## What factors guide item selection?

The test blueprint for each grade guides item selection. High-level blueprints for DC ELA are in the Appendix. Students are assigned either Option 1 or Option 2.

# Which accommodations are available for students taking DC ELA?

OSSE is committed to providing an accessible testing experience for all students. The forms offered to students taking the DC ELA assessment include:

- Braille
- Closed captioning
- Paper, including large print
- Human reader
- Text-to-speech (TTS)

The following tools are available in TestNav to assist any student testing online:

- Answer eliminator
- Answer masking
- Bookmark
- Color contrast
- Highlighter
- Line Reader
- Magnifier
- Notepad
- Pointer tool
- Pop-up glossary
- Spell check
- Writing tools

## Where can I find more information?

For more information about DC CAPE, visit the OSSE [State Assessments](#) or email the Office of Assessments at [OSSE.Assessments@dc.gov](mailto:OSSE.Assessments@dc.gov).

# Appendix: ELA Blueprints

## DC ELA Grade 3 Blueprint

Option 1		
<b>Literary Analysis Task (2 passages)</b>		
Claims/Sub-claims	Points: EBSRs/TECRs	Points: PCRs
Reading: Literary Text	8	3
Reading: Vocabulary	4	0
Writing: Written Expression	0	9
Writing: Knowledge of Language and Conventions	0	3
<b>Research Simulation Task (2 passages)</b>		
Claims/Sub-claims	Points: EBSRs/TECRs	Points: PCRs
Reading: Informational Text	8	3
Reading: Vocabulary	4	0
Writing: Written Expression	0	9
Writing: Knowledge of Language and Conventions	0	3
<b>Total (4 passages)</b>		
Points	EBSRs/TECRs	PCRs
	Reading: 24	Reading: 6 Writing: 24
Option 2		
<b>Narrative Writing Task (1 passage)</b>		
Claims/Sub-claims	Points: EBSRs/TECRs	Points: PCRs
Reading: Literary Text	8	0
Reading: Vocabulary	0	0
Writing: Written Expression	0	9
Writing: Knowledge of Language and Conventions	0	3
<b>Short Passage Set (1 passage)</b>		
Claims/Sub-claims	Points: EBSRs/TECRs	Points: PCRs
Reading: Literary Text	4	n/a
Reading: Vocabulary	4	n/a
<b>Research Simulation Task (2 passages)</b>		
Claims/Sub-claims	Points: EBSRs/TECRs	Points: PCRs
Reading: Informational Text	8	3
Reading: Vocabulary	4	0
Writing: Written Expression	0	9
Writing: Knowledge of Language and Conventions	0	3
<b>Total (4 passages)</b>		
Points	EBSRs/TECRs	PCRs
	Reading: 28	Reading: 3 Writing: 24

# DC ELA Grades 4–5 Blueprint

Option 1		
Literary Analysis Task (2 passages)		
Claims/Sub-claims	Points: EBSRs/TECRs	Points: PCRs
Reading: Literary Text	8	4
Reading: Vocabulary	4	0
Writing: Written Expression	0	12
Writing: Knowledge of Language and Conventions	0	3
Short Passage Set (1 passage)		
	EBSRs/TECRs	PCRs
Reading: Literary Text	6	n/a
Reading: Vocabulary	2	n/a
Research Simulation Task (3 passages)		
Claims/Sub-claims	Points: EBSRs/TECRs	Points: PCRs
Reading: Informational Text	12	4
Reading: Vocabulary	4	0
Writing: Written Expression	0	12
Writing: Knowledge of Language and Conventions	0	3
Total (6 passages)		
Points	EBSRs/TECRs	PCRs
	Reading: 36	Reading: 8 Writing: 30
Option 2		
Narrative Writing Task (1 passage)		
Claims/Sub-Claims	Points: EBSRs/TECRs	Points: PCRs
Reading: Literary Text	8	0
Reading: Vocabulary	0	0
Writing: Written Expression	0	9
Writing: Knowledge of Language and Conventions	0	3
Long or Paired Passage Set (1 or 2 passages)		
Claims/Sub-Claims	Points: EBSRs/TECRs	Points: PCRs
Reading: Literary Text	8	n/a
Reading: Vocabulary	4	n/a
Research Simulation Task (3 passages)		
Claims/Sub-Claims	Points: EBSRs/TECRs	Points: PCRs
Reading: Informational Text	12	4
Reading: Vocabulary	4	0
Writing: Written Expression	0	12
Writing: Knowledge of Language and Conventions	0	3
Total (5–6 passages)		
Points	EBSRs/TECRs	PCRs
	Reading: 36	Reading: 4 Writing: 27



# DC ELA Grades 6–8 Blueprint

Option 1		
<b>Literary Analysis Task (2 passages)</b>		
Claims/Sub-Claims	Points: EBSRs/TECRs	Points: PCRs
Reading: Literary Text	8	4
Reading: Vocabulary	4	0
Writing: Written Expression	0	12
Writing: Knowledge of Language and Conventions	0	3
<b>Short Passage Set (1 passage)</b>		
Claims/Sub-Claims	Points: EBSRs/TECRs	Points: PCRs
Reading: Literary Text	6	n/a
Reading: Vocabulary	2	n/a
<b>Research Simulation Task (3 passages)</b>		
Claims/Sub-Claims	Points: EBSRs/TECRs	Points: PCRs
Reading: Informational Text	12	4
Reading: Vocabulary	4	0
Writing: Written Expression	0	12
Writing: Knowledge of Language and Conventions	0	3
<b>Total (6 passages)</b>		
Points	EBSRs/TECRs	PCRs
	Reading: 36	Reading: 8 Writing: 30
Option 2		
<b>Narrative Writing Task (1 passage)</b>		
Claims/Sub-Claims	Points: EBSRs/TECRs	Points: PCRs
Reading: Literary Text	8	0
Reading: Vocabulary	0	0
Writing: Written Expression	0	12
Writing: Knowledge of Language and Conventions	0	3
<b>Long or Paired Passage Set (1 or 2 passages)</b>		
Claims/Sub-Claims	Points: EBSRs/TECRs	Points: PCRs
Reading: Literary Text	8	n/a
Reading: Vocabulary	4	n/a
<b>Research Simulation Task (3 passages)</b>		
Claims/Sub-Claims	Points: EBSRs/TECRs	Points: PCRs
Reading: Informational Text	12	4
Reading: Vocabulary	4	0
Writing: Written Expression	0	12
Writing: Knowledge of Language and Conventions	0	3
<b>Total (5–6 passages)</b>		
Points	EBSRs/TECRs	PCRs
	Reading: 36	Reading: 4 Writing: 30

# DC ELA I and ELA II Blueprint

Option 1		
<b>Literary Analysis Task (2 passages)</b>		
Claims/Sub-Claims	Points: EBSRs/TECRs	Points: PCRs
Reading: Literary Text	8	4
Reading: Vocabulary	4	0
Writing: Written Expression	0	12
Writing: Knowledge of Language and Conventions	0	3
<b>Short Passage Set (1 passage)</b>		
Claims/Sub-Claims	Points: EBSRs/TECRs	Points: PCRs
Reading: Informational Text	6	n/a
Reading: Vocabulary	2	n/a
<b>Research Simulation Task (3 passages)</b>		
Claims/Sub-Claims	Points: EBSRs/TECRs	Points: PCRs
Reading: Informational Text	12	4
Reading: Vocabulary	4	0
Writing: Written Expression	0	12
Writing: Knowledge of Language and Conventions	0	3
<b>Total (6 passages)</b>		
Points	EBSRs/TECRs	PCRs
	Reading: 36	Reading: 8 Writing: 30
Option 2		
<b>Narrative Writing Task (1 passage)</b>		
Claims/Sub-Claims	Points: EBSRs/TECRs	Points: PCRs
Reading: Literary Text	8	0
Reading: Vocabulary	0	0
Writing: Written Expression	0	12
Writing: Knowledge of Language and Conventions	0	3
<b>Long or Paired Passage Set (1 or 2 passages)</b>		
Claims/Sub-Claims	Points: EBSRs/TECRs	Points: PCRs
Reading: Literary Text	8	n/a
Reading: Vocabulary	4	n/a
<b>Research Simulation Task (3 passages)</b>		
Claims/Sub-Claims	Points: EBSRs/TECRs	Points: PCRs
Reading: Informational Text	12	4
Reading: Vocabulary	4	0
Writing: Written Expression	0	12
Writing: Knowledge of Language and Conventions	0	3
<b>Total (5–6 passages)</b>		
Points	EBSRs/TECRs	PCRs
	Reading: 36	Reading: 4 Writing: 30