

## Support Reading and Mathematics at Home

Reading at home outside of class work is one of the most important things your child can do. Data from the End-of-Grade Test has indicated that children who read more outside of school score higher on the test. It is important that your child sees you reading – what you are reading is not as important as that your child sees you as a role model. Recipes, books, newspapers, magazines, etc., are all appropriate. Read to your child and provide materials for your child to read at home. Try to visit the library together and have book talks about the interesting books you and your child have read.

You can also help your child become more proficient in mathematics by “doing math” with your child. As problem-solving partners, you can explore many different areas of mathematics and help foster a positive attitude about mathematics at home. Mathematics is everywhere; newspapers include graphs and charts, sporting events provide data and statistics, the grocery store affords an opportunity for practicing measurement and estimation, recipes can be modified, the changing seasons give an opportunity to examine temperature, road trips encourage map reading, distance, time and gasoline mileage problems. Make a list of all the ways your family uses mathematics at home. By “doing math” together, you will demonstrate that learning mathematics is fun!

## Work with the School

- Visit your child’s school regularly to discuss your child’s progress with his/her teacher.
- Discuss schoolwork with your child and check to see that homework assignments are complete.
- Find out from your child’s teacher how you can help support what is going on in class at home.

The North Carolina End-of-Grade Test will be administered on:

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*On the day of the test, please make sure your child:*

- Eats a good breakfast.
- Wears comfortable clothing.
- Arrives at school on time.
- Brings two sharpened # 2 pencils to school.

# End-of-Grade Testing:

*Information for Parents*

Public Schools of North Carolina  
State Board of Education  
Department of Public Instruction  
Instructional Services  
English Language Arts Section

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**Background:** The purpose of this brochure is to help you understand the North Carolina End-of-Grade Tests given in grades 3-8. These grade level multiple-choice tests of reading and mathematics are designed to assess growth each year. In accordance with the ABC Plan, there should be a year's worth of growth for a year's worth of school. Just like height in inches, on average, student scores in reading and mathematics are expected to go up every year. Also, like height, the rate of growth may vary year to year.

The test includes opportunities for your child to read a variety of passages and to solve different mathematics problems and then to select the appropriate answer. After tests have been scored, you will receive a Parent/Teacher Report which includes individual student, school, school system, and state scores.

**Expectations:** In the report that you receive, student achievement is reported as a level I, II, III, or IV. *Under the ABC Plan, level III is considered to be grade level mastery.* In both reading and mathematics, it is expected that at level III, students have mastered the current grade level content and are prepared to move to the next grade.

- Level IV scores indicate that students consistently perform in a manner that is clearly beyond grade level requirements and expectations.
- Level III scores indicate that students are able to work independently and successfully with grade level subject matter. Students at this level consistently demonstrate mastery of grade level concepts and skills. These students require minimal assistance and they show confidence and initiative with grade level tasks.
- Level II scores indicate that students demonstrate inconsistent mastery of concepts, knowledge, and skills. There may be uneven performance of on-grade level tasks.
- Level I scores indicate that students at this level frequently need a great deal of individual attention and guidance to be successful in academic tasks. Students at this level do not exhibit mastery of grade level knowledge and skills.

### Parents Can Help:

With increased reliance on tests as measures of progress, the pressure on students to do well also has increased. There is much you can do to relieve your child's anxiety about testing and to help your child perform up to his/her potential on the North Carolina End-of-Grade Test.

### Before the test

Avoid causing anxiety for your child over the test. Make it clear that you want your child to do as well as possible. Do not make it seem, however, that the whole world is riding on your child's performance. A more relaxed attitude may pay off in better performance and a healthier attitude about the test.

With your child, devise a strategy for what to do if he/she does not know an answer to an item or becomes panic stricken. For example, encourage your child to read all of the choices before answering the question and to "flag" questions about which he/she is unsure and continue. If your child becomes panicked, it may be helpful for him/her to take several slow controlled, deep breaths.