



**High School Science Assessments
Table 2016-2017**



2016–17 State High School Science Assessments

Achieve collected from publicly available sources (e.g., state education agency websites) which science assessments states are administering statewide in high school in 2016-17. We found that states' science assessments have remained largely stable over the past year.

What changes did states make to science assessments in 2016–17?

Seven states (Alaska, California, Nebraska, Nevada, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and West Virginia) are administering a new science assessment this year. Of these, Nebraska has elected to administer the ACT to assess science, while all others are administering a state-developed assessment.

Which assessments are students taking in 2016–17?

States use two types of assessments for students in science:

- **26 states** use a comprehensive (i.e., end of grade) assessment (or assessments) that is administered to all students in a cohort at the same time regardless of the courses the student has taken in high school.
 - **14 states** administer the comprehensive science assessment at the end of 11th grade and **10 states** do so in the 10th grade.
 - California is administering the California Science Test to a select group of students across grades 10, 11, and 12 as a part of the science assessment pilot in 2016–17.
- **25 states** are using an end-of-course (EOC) assessment (or assessments) that students take upon completion of the requisite coursework regardless of what grade level. In other words, students take the appropriate EOCs for the science courses in which the student is enrolled.

What content are students tested on?

In terms of content assessed, nearly **half of the states (25)** include a biology assessment. Of these, **20 states** require that all students take a biology assessment, while **5 states** (Idaho, Massachusetts, New York, Utah, and Virginia), allow students to choose from a menu of science EOCs where biology is one option.

Science assessments in state accountability systems

As states continue to reassess their accountability systems in light of the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA), they face important decisions about which high school assessments to incorporate. While states must assess students in high school in science they are not required to include a measure of science achievement in their high school accountability systems. To this end, Achieve released a brief reviewing [summative assessments used in states' accountability systems](#) in October 2016. Our review found that **36 states** include results from their science assessment in their accountability formula for high schools. The remaining **15 states** assess students in high school science but do not use the results for accountability.

2016–17 High School Science Assessment Name(s)		Grade Administered (if known) and Additional Notes
AL	ACT Aspire	Students are assessed in science on the ACT Aspire in Grade 10 and the ACT in Grade 11.
	ACT plus Writing	
AK	Alaska Science Assessment	Grade 10
AZ	Arizona’s Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) Science	Grade 10, but may be taken by grade 9 students who are enrolled in a life sciences course.
AR	ACT Aspire	Grades 9, 10
CA	California Standards Test (Pilot)	Students selected for pilot
CO	Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) for science	Grade 11
CT	Connecticut Academic Performance Test, Third Generation (CAPT)	Grade 10
DE	Delaware Comprehensive Assessment System (DCAS) for science	Grade 10
DC	DC Next Generation Science Assessment	A Biology EOC
FL	Biology I EOC	Students take the assessment upon completion of the course.
GA	Georgia Milestones Biology EOC	All students take the Biology EOC prior to graduating. Only students who elect to take the course will take the Physical Science EOC.
	Georgia Milestones Physical Science EOC	
HI	Biology I EOC	Students take the assessment upon completion of the course.
ID	Science EOCs (Biology or Chemistry)	One Science EOC, biology or chemistry, is required in one high school grade (10–12).
IL	Illinois State Science Assessment (content aligned to Biology I)	A Biology EOC, incorporates NGSS
IN	Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress Plus (ISTEP+) End of Course Assessments in Biology	Students take the assessment upon completion of the course.
IA	Iowa Assessments	Grade 11
KS	Kansas Assessment Program – Science	Grade 11
KY	Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress (K-PREP) ACT QualityCore Biology EOC	Students take the assessment upon completion of the course.
LA	Biology EOC	Students take the assessment upon completion of the course. EOCs comprise between 15 percent and 30 percent of the student’s final grade in the subject. To earn a standard high school diploma, students must earn a score of Fair or above on three EOCs, including one in each category — Algebra I or Geometry, English II or English III, and Biology or U.S. History.
ME	Maine Educational Assessment (MEA)	Grade 11
MD	Maryland High School Assessments (HSA) in Biology	Students take the assessment upon completion of the course. Beginning 2017–18, science assessment in high school will be an integrated assessment.
MA	Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) Technology/Engineering EOC	Students must pass one of the Science and Technology/Engineering assessment options to

	MCAS Biology EOC	satisfy the graduation requirement.
	MCAS Chemistry EOC	
	MCAS Introductory Physics EOC	
MI	Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP)	Grade 11
MN	Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA-III): Science	End-of-Instruction in Life Science or Biology.
MS	Subject Area Testing Program, 2 nd Edition (SATP2) in Biology	<p>Students participate in assessment when they complete the associated course. Biology is typically taken in 9th grade.</p> <p>Starting in the 2016-2017 school year, SATP scores will constitute 25 percent of a student's final grade in the applicable course.</p> <p>Starting in the 2016-2017 school year, SATP scores will constitute 25 percent of a student's final grade in the applicable course.</p>
MO	Biology EOC	Students take the assessment upon completion of the course. The Physical Science EOC is a local option.
	Physical Science EOC	
MT	Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT) in Science	Grade 10
NE	Nebraska State Accountability Tests (NeSA) Science (ACT)	Grade 11
NV	Grade 10 Science Assessment	Grade 10
NH	New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) for Science	Grade 11
NJ	New Jersey Biology Competency Test (NJBCT)	Grade level varies.
NM	New Mexico Standards Based Assessment (SBA) in science	Grade 11
NY	New York State Regents Exam in Physical Setting/Chemistry	In science, students must pass one exam to graduate.
	New York State Regents Exam in Physical Setting/Earth Science	
	New York State Regents Exam in Living Environment	
	New York State Regents Competency Tests in Physical Setting/Physics	
NC	North Carolina READY EOC in Biology	Students take the assessment upon completion of the course.
ND	North Dakota State Assessment (NDSA) for science	Grade 11
OH	Biology EOC	Students take the assessment upon completion of the course. Beginning with the Class of 2018, Physical Science EOC will be administered. Students will need to earn points toward graduation on seven EOCs including physical science.
OK	Oklahoma School Testing Program (OSTP) Grade 10 assessment in science	<p>Grade 10</p> <p>Students who have previously taken the Biology EOI and have a valid score may be exempt from the Grade 10 science assessment at the discretion of the school district.</p>

OR	Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS) for Science	Grade 11
PA	Keystone Exam in Biology	Students take the assessment upon completion of the course.
RI	New England Comprehensive Assessment Program (NECAP) Science	Grade 11
SC	End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP) in Biology	Students take the assessment upon completion of the course.
SD	South Dakota Science	Grade 11
TN	Biology I EOC	All students must take a Biology course (and thus the Biology EOC) as a graduation requirement. Only students who elect to take a chemistry course will be assessed using the Chemistry EOC.
	Chemistry EOC	
TX	State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) EOC in Biology	Students take the assessment upon completion of the course. Beginning with the class of 2015, students must pass the STAAR EOCs to graduate.
UT	Student Assessment of Growth and Excellence (SAGE) EOC in Biology	Students who elect to take a specific science course will be assessed using the corresponding science EOC.
	SAGE EOC in Earth Science	
	SAGE EOC Chemistry	
	SAGE EOC Physics	
VT	New England Comprehensive Assessment Program (NECAP) Science	Grade 11
VA	Earth Science Standards of Learning (SOL)	Students must pass one science SOL to fulfill their graduation requirement for a Standard Diploma. To graduate with an Advanced Studies Diploma, students must earn two verified credits in science.
	Biology SOL	
	Chemistry SOL	
WA	Biology EOC	Students take the assessment upon completion of the course.
WV	West Virginia General Summative Assessment (Science)	Grade 10
WI	ACT Aspire	Grades 9-10
	ACT	Grade 11
WY	ACT Aspire Early High School	Grades 9-10
	ACT	Grade 11

Source: These data are based on the Achieve's ongoing monitoring of states' academic standards, graduation requirements, assessments and accountability systems. Updates to the table will be made on an ongoing basis as states' assessments and related policies evolve.