

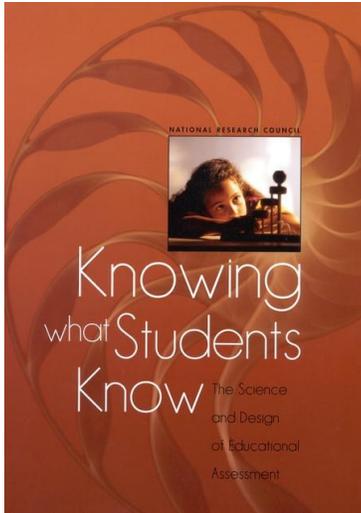
The Role of Field Testing in Ensuring High-Quality and Fair Assessments

Board of Regents'
Standards and
Assessment Workgroup

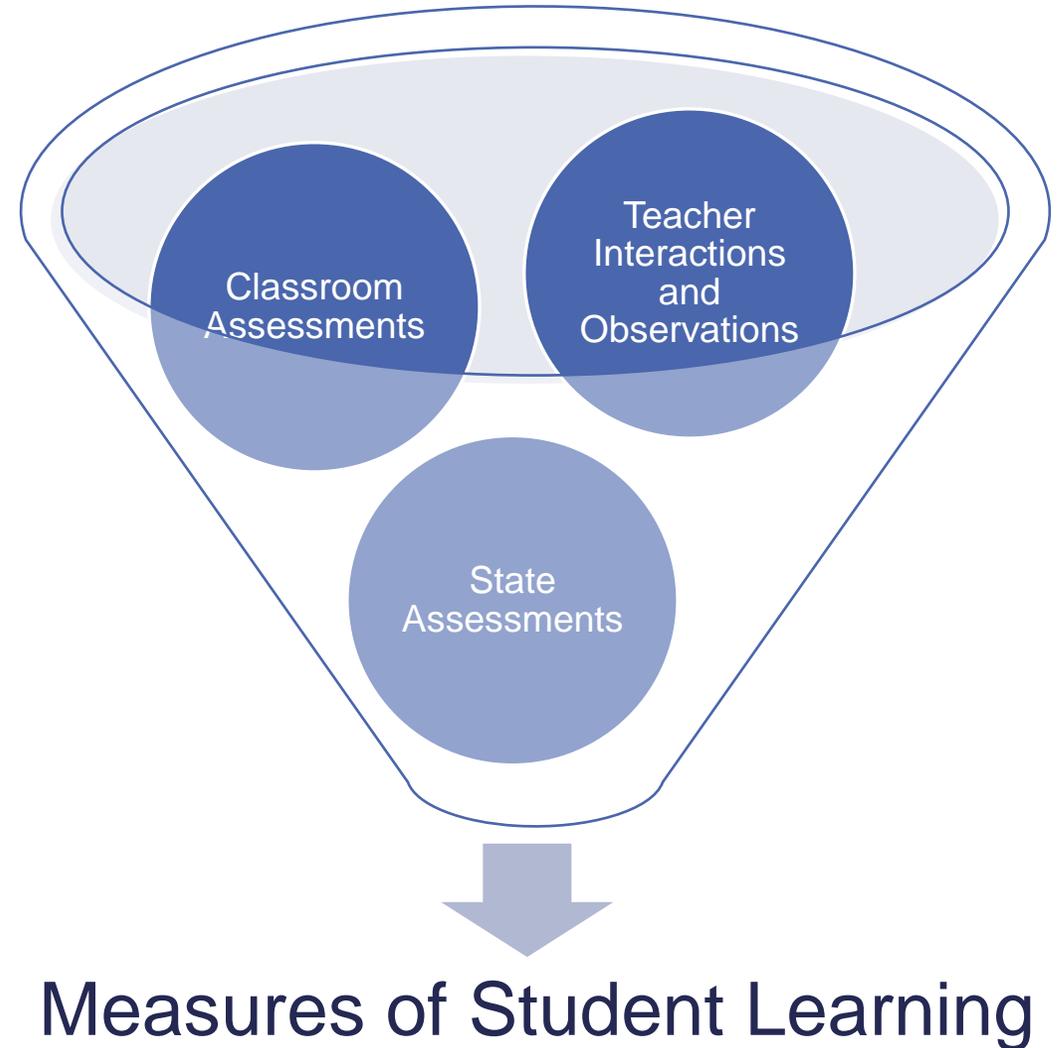
APRIL 2022



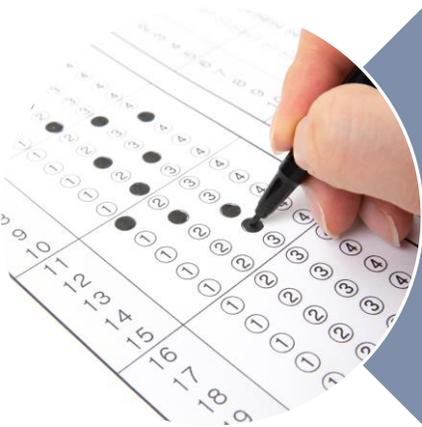
New York's Assessment Strategy



“A vision for the future is that assessments at all levels – from classroom to state – will work together in a system that is comprehensive, coherent, and continuous. In such a system, assessments would provide a variety of evidence to support educational decision making.”



What is Field Testing?



Field tests (also called “item tryouts”) involve administering newly developed test items to a sample of examinees that represent the intended population.



The purpose of field testing items is to evaluate their measurement properties, quality, and fairness prior to use on an operational test form where they will contribute to a student’s score (Lane, et al., 2016).



Why is Field Testing Necessary?

- Field testing is a fundamental part of the test development process, ensuring the validity and reliability of operational tests.
- According to the *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*, field testing ensures that “items are reviewed for content quality, clarity, and construct-irrelevant aspects of content that influence test takers’ responses.” (AERA, APA, & NCME, 2014)



Field testing ensures that only those questions that have demonstrated fairness for ALL students are included in the operational tests.



From the *Standards*:
“Analyses of responses to these tryout items provide useful data for evaluating quality and appropriateness prior to operational use”
(p. 82, AERA, APA, & NCME, 2014).

How Does Field Testing Help to Ensure Quality and Fair Assessments?

Do All State Assessment Programs Field Test Questions?

All states' assessment programs as well as most other large scale standardized assessment programs, such as AP, ACT, and SAT, field test as part of their test development process.

This is also true of interim assessments such as i-Ready, NWEA MAP, and STAR.



How is Field Testing Done in NY?

The two most common approaches to field testing are embedded and standalone administrations (Schmeiser & Welch, 2006).



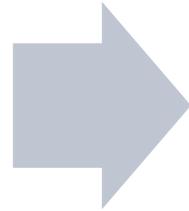
Most field testing in NY is done with single-session short field test forms administered fairly close to the operational test.



In 2016, NYSED began embedding limited numbers of multiple-choice field test items in the Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests. The Department is currently exploring ways to embed field test items in more of its operational tests.

How is Field Testing Done in NY?

For the Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests, schools have the option of administering the field tests on computer (i.e., CBT) or in printed test booklets.



Computer-based testing creates opportunities for more innovative types of assessment questions, such as simulations and performance-based items.

Where Does Field Testing Fit in NY's Test Development Process?



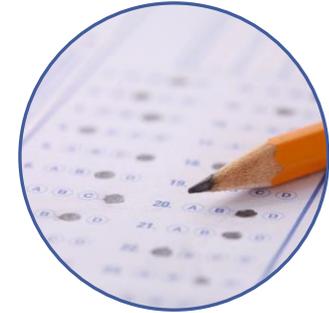
NYS educators write the test questions



NYS educators review, refine, and select field test items



NYS educators review a sampling of responses, and select those that exemplify each score point



NYS educators select the questions for inclusion in operational tests



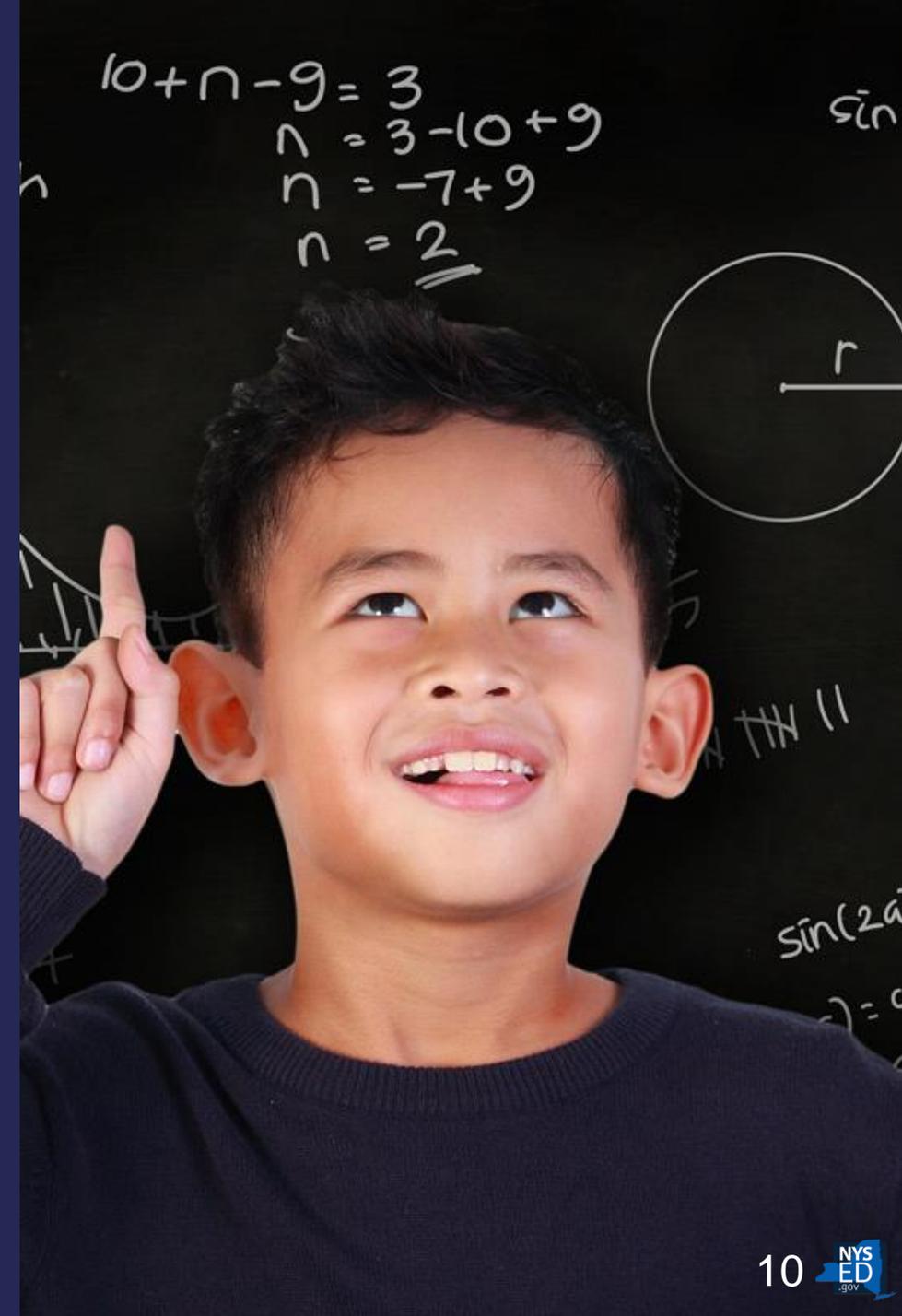
What Benefits do Schools and Students Gain from Participating in Field Testing?

Familiarization with the CBT platform for future operational use

Influence on test development to ensure questions are fair for ALL students

Practice testing for students in a low-stakes environment

Training on administration procedures and policies



How Has the Cancellation of Field Test Administrations Impacted NYSED's Item Banks?

- NYSED has a limited supply of test items that can be used to create operational test forms for future administrations.
- Without replenishing the test banks through the administration of field tests, NYSED will be unable to produce future operational test forms.
- New questions for tests measuring the new learning standards in ELA, math, and science have yet to be field tested.

What Field Testing is NY Conducting in Spring 2022?

Grades 3-8 ELA & Math Multiple-choice
(Embedded CBT and paper)

Grades 3-8 ELA & Math Constructed response
(Standalone CBT and paper)

Grades 5 and 8 Science
(Standalone CBT and paper)

Regents Exams
(Standalone paper)

NYSESLAT
(Standalone paper)

NYSAA
(Embedded CBT)

Schools are given a wide window from which they select the specific date(s) most convenient for the school to administer the field tests.

Schools are not expected to bring students into schools to participate in the field tests



Summary

- Field testing is a fundamental part of the test development process.
- Ensures test items function as intended and measure content in a fair and accurate way.
- Field testing is an industry best practice and identified by USDE as required evidence of “procedures to evaluate the quality of items and select items for operational use.”
- Trying out test questions with a representative sample of students in all varieties of schools across the State ensures questions are appropriate and fair for ALL students.

Discussion

