

REVISED — January 2010

Content Standards and Assessment in Delaware



Department of Education

What are the Delaware Content Standards and the Grade Level Expectations (GLEs)?

- The Content Standards explain what students should know and be able to do by the end of the grade clusters: K–3, 4–5, 6–8 for reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies; and 9–10 for reading, writing, and mathematics and 9–11 for science and social studies.
- Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) explain the standards at each grade level.
- School districts and charter schools design lessons that will help students meet the GLEs and the standards.



What is the Delaware Student Testing Program (DSTP)?

The DSTP is made up of tests given in reading and mathematics in grades 2–10; and science and social studies in grades 4, 6, 8, and 11.

What is the purpose of the DSTP?

- To help schools and districts know whether students are making progress on meeting standards
- To help the state know how schools and districts are ensuring that students are being taught the standards

How long is the DSTP?

Students are allowed as much time as they need, but most students finish in the time listed below:

Reading	Two 2 1/2-hour sessions
Mathematics	One 2 1/2-hour session and One 1 1/2-hour session
Science Grades 4 & 6 Grades 8 & 11	Two 1 1/2-hour sessions One 2 1/2-hour session
Social Studies Grades 4 & 6 Grades 8 & 11	Two 1 1/2-hour sessions One 2 1/2-hour session



When do students take the DSTP?

Students take the reading and mathematics DSTP in March. The science and social studies DSTP is given to 8th and 11th graders in May. The 4th and 6th graders took the science and social studies DSTP this past October.

When are student scores available?

Test scores for reading and mathematics are available by the end of May. The DSTP includes questions that require students to write out their answers. These questions take longer to score than multiple-choice questions.

What are the Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs)?

PLDs explain the students' strengths and weaknesses in the content areas. Teachers and families can help students improve where they need to and keep building on strengths. You can find the PLDs at:

http://www.doe.k12.de.us/aab/DSTP_gen_info/performancelevel.shtml

Where can I find sample DSTP questions and student work?

Sample questions and student responses are on the Department of Education (DOE) website at:

http://www.doe.k12.de.us/aab/sample_items/default.shtml

Many districts and schools also have developed sample questions that they will share with families.

Are the GLEs available on the Department of Education’s website?

Yes, the GLEs and the Delaware Recommended Curriculum can be found on the DOE website at:

<http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/staff/ci/default.shtml>

What are the Michael C. Ferguson Scholarships?

Annually, the state of Delaware awards Michael C. Ferguson Scholarships based on performance on the DSTP in grades 8 and 10. Half of the available \$1000 scholarships are awarded to students on the Free and Reduced Lunch Program and the other half to students who are not.

Not all students who score a performance level 5 (distinguished) will receive scholarships. The cutoff for a Ferguson scholarship is established by taking the highest scale scores then counting down until all available scholarships are awarded in each content area and grade.

Students re-taking the DSTP in any of these content areas are ineligible to receive any Ferguson scholarships.

For more information call DOE’s hotline at 1-877-838-DSTP.

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