

## How Parents Can Help

**When a test is being given, you can help by making sure your student**

- gets plenty of sleep the night before the test;
- has breakfast on the morning of the test;
- goes to school on the day of a test;
- does not have any out-of-school appointments on the day of a test;
- knows that you think he/she will do well on the tests; and
- knows you understand that the test is important.

**To help your student learn at home,**

- encourage your student to read and read to your student;
- be interested in your student's daily school work;
- talk with and listen to your student daily;
- go to parent-teacher conferences and stay in regular contact with your student's teacher(s);
- get to know your student's teacher;
- remind your student that it is ok to ask questions in class; and
- check frequently to ensure that your student is completing all assigned work in a timely manner.

## ACTAAP

Arkansas Comprehensive Testing,  
Assessment, and Accountability Program

### A Note to Parents/Guardians

The Iowa Tests

Grades 1-2

and

ACT Aspire

Grades 3-10



**Arkansas Department of Education**

## What is ACTAAP?

The **Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program (ACTAAP)**, A.C.A. § 6-15-401 et seq., is the state law that requires the state of Arkansas to test public school students.

## What is the purpose of the tests?

Research shows that the earlier we measure progress toward meeting educational standards, the more we can strengthen a student's chances to stay on target enabling him/her to succeed and be college and career ready upon graduating high school. These assessments ensure that all students in Arkansas public schools have an equal opportunity to demonstrate grade-level and subject area academic proficiency through the application of knowledge and skills in the core academic subjects consistent with state curriculum frameworks, and performance standards.

## What tests will my student take?

Testing Windows:

### Grades 1 and 2

Iowa Test of Basic Skills  
April 4 - April 16, 2016

### Grades 3 - 10

ACT Aspire  
April 11 - May 13, 2016

## What is the Iowa Test of Basic Skills?

The Iowa tests are paper-based norm-referenced tests which measure the performance of individual Arkansas students against a national group. These tests will identify students who may need additional instruction in language arts, math, and science.

## What is the ACT Aspire?

ACT Aspire is an online criterion-referenced test given to students in grades 3 -10 in English, reading, writing, math, and science. Criterion-reference tests measure a student's knowledge of standard specific skills. ACT Aspire replaces the PARCC assessment that was given in 2015. The total end-of-year testing time for ACT Aspire is 4 - 4 1/2 hours. These tests are administered over a five week testing window. Parents will receive score reports that will provide information regarding each student's individual progress.

## When will my student test ?

Your student will test:

**Grade 7: April 18 & 19, 2016**

**Grade 8: April 13 & 14, 2016**

**Grade 9 & 10: April 11 & 12, 2016**

**Students absent on these days will be given the test when they return to school.**