



**BE A
LEARNING
HERO**

FAMILY PLAYBOOK

Each spring, your child takes a state test that is one measure of how prepared he or she is for the next grade level in English and math. Check out a few ways you can help your child be confident and ready.

In Partnership With



Ready for the Test

As spring testing nears, here are five tips to help ensure your child's success:

- 1 See for Yourself:** Look over a practice test on [BeALearningHero.org/readyforthetest](https://www.belearninghero.org/readyforthetest) to see firsthand what is expected of your child so you will both be prepared.
- 2 Talk to Your Teacher:** Chat with your child's teacher to learn the facts. How long does the test take to complete? How should your child prepare? What can you do at home to support your child? That way, if your child has questions, you'll have answers.
- 3 Connect the Dots:** Help your child understand that the test matches what he or she has been learning in the classroom all year long. Each year,

there are a set of learning goals for your child in English and math. You can review those goals on [BeALearningHero.org/readyforthetest](https://www.belearninghero.org/readyforthetest) so that you can reinforce those skills that will matter most.

- 4 Lower the Stakes:** Test anxiety is real for both parents and kids, yet it's important for your child to learn how to take tests with confidence. The state test helps the school and the teachers better help your child. It does not count toward your child's report card grades.

- 5 Sign Up:** Go to [BeALearningHero.org/readyforthetest](https://www.belearninghero.org/readyforthetest) to sign up for email tips on how to ensure that your child is confident, ready, and on the right track.

See the next page for sample test questions. 



Straight Talk About the State Test



YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

What kind of questions are on the test? The test questions range from traditional multiple choice to ones that require your child to use critical-thinking and problem-solving skills. In math, your child will be asked to explain how he or she came to a solution. In English, your child will be asked to analyze grade-level reading passages and write grade-appropriate essays. For examples of test questions, as well as writing examples at each grade level, visit [BeALearningHero.org/readyforthetest](https://www.belearninghero.org/readyforthetest).

Is the test taken on the computer? Yes, most students will take the test on the computer, although some students may use paper and pencil.

When will I get my child's scores? Scores will be available to parents much earlier than last year. In some states parents will receive reports in the summer, but in other states reports may not be available until fall.

What do the test scores mean? A single test score is not meant to tell the whole story of your child's academic progress. The results from the state test are intended to be one of several measures—including report card grades, teacher input, and classroom work—that, together, give a complete picture of how ready your child is to succeed in the next grade.

CURIOUS ABOUT THE TEST QUESTIONS?

These sample fifth-grade questions show how the tests are designed to have students show their work and demonstrate the depth of their understanding.

→ **MATH**—Shannon is building a rectangular garden that is 18 feet wide and 27 feet long.

Write an equation that represents the area of Shannon's garden. In your equation, let g represent the area of Shannon's garden. Then solve your equation.

Enter your equation and your solution in the space provided.

Answer: $g = 18 \times 27$; $g = 486$ sq. ft.

→ **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**—The student reads articles from three different sources about service animals.

Question: Which source would **most likely** be the most helpful in understanding how a service animal is trained? Explain why this source is **most likely** the most helpful. Give at least **two** details from the source to support your answer.

Answers will vary, but should include relevant details from the sources.



THE TEST FOCUSES MORE ON APPLYING SKILLS THAN ON MEMORIZING FACTS.

Real-Life Learning: Your child will be asked to use critical thinking, problem solving, and writing to explain his or her answers. These are skills that your child needs both inside and outside the classroom, and that students will have worked on with their teachers during the school year.

Classroom Based: The test reflects the skills, content, and activities your child is exploring in the classroom every day, providing you with one measure of how ready your child will be for the next grade. You can see what is expected of your child by grade at [BeALearningHero.org](https://www.belearninghero.org).