



# PS 24 Queens Email Blast

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## NEW YORK STATE TESTS—English Language Arts GRADES 3, 4 and 5

*Tuesday, March 28—Wednesday, March 29—Thursday, March 30*

### New York State English Language Arts (ELA) Tests

#### Who takes this test?

Students in grades 3–8 take the State English Language Arts (ELA) test each spring. These assessments measure the Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS). Students who have been in the United States for less than one year are not required to take the New York State ELA test in their grade, but must start taking ELA tests after their first year.

#### What is on the test?

The ELA test is an untimed test that contains several different types of questions. Students answer multiple choice questions based on short passages they read, and write responses to open-ended questions based on stories, articles, or poems they listen to, or read.

#### How are the results reported?

The number of correct answers a student gives on a test is converted into the student's "scale score."

Scale scores are divided into four performance levels. Schools distribute test results on Individual Student Reports (ISRs) to every parent. The ISRs include the student's scale score, performance level, and information on his or her strengths and weaknesses in the different skill areas tested.

#### How are the results used?

Educators use student test results to assign students to identify areas where the student needs extra help or more challenging material. Educators also examine school-wide results to identify broad instructional areas that require improvement.

## TEST TAKING TIPS



1. **Prepare Things the Night Before.** Prepare your clothes and schoolbag the night before an exam can help de-stress and slow down your morning and allow you to wake up and get ready with ease and peace of mind.
2. **Get a good night's sleep.** Don't burn the midnight oil the night before a test. The extra effort put into late-night studying will be offset by reduced mental performance due to lost sleep.
3. **Wake Up Your Mind and Body.** It's very important that in the morning you're focusing on waking up both your mind and body so that you're wholeheartedly ready to take on a long test.
4. **Wear Appropriate Attire.** When getting dressed, keeping your body comfortable helps minimize distractions and effects on your abilities.
5. **Eat a Smart Breakfast.** Even if you're not a breakfast person, eating breakfast is essential before a long test.
6. **Warm Up Your Brain.** While you're eating breakfast and getting ready during the morning, try to read something small and short. This gets your brain in the mood to read and process information.
7. **Allow Ample Time to Arrive.** Nothing is more stressful to the proctor, other students, and yourself, than to arrive late. Allow time for traffic and unexpected delays so that you can arrive at the testing location with time to spare. Remember, **PS 24Q school doors open at 8:15am!**