

What kind of score will my child receive?

The Delaware History Standards are each written to address content knowledge and skill in history. Student scores will reliably reflect their ability to use social studies content and skills in a real-world context at each appropriate grade level. Students will receive a scale score that will be translated to a proficiency score of 1–4 where 1=well below, 2=below, 3=proficient, 4=above proficient.

How will I know my child's score?

Families will receive a score report for each child who took the test. The report will explain how the child performed on the test and how to interpret the scores. The report now also includes a qualitative achievement level description (ALD) of the student's performance relative to the standards presented on the assessment.

What will the school do with my child's score?

The DeSSA Grade 8 Social Studies Assessment score will be one of many measures of your child's social studies performance. This score will be included with multiple measures to identify strengths and weaknesses in your child's learning pattern to identify ongoing strategies to best meet the needs of your child.

Where can I get more information about the DeSSA Social Studies Assessments?

You can visit the Delaware Department of Education's assessment website at <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/domain/518>. You can also contact the Office of Assessment at 302-857-3391.

Where can I get more information about Delaware's Social Studies Standards?

You can visit the Delaware Social Studies website at <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/Page/2548>.

Para leer este folleto en español, vaya a <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/domain/518>

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A family's guide
to Delaware's
assessment program for
social studies



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Delaware's SOCIAL STUDIES Assessment

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What is the Delaware Social Studies Assessment?

DeSSA Social Studies is the state's student testing program for social studies. The Grade 8 test aligns to Delaware's History Standards. This assessment asks students to demonstrate their progress towards mastery of these standards.

The term *assessment* in education refers to any check of student performance—from an in-class quiz to an end-of-year test. Regular assessments are an important part of understanding how and what students are learning in the classroom. Teachers use assessment information to tailor each student's instruction.



What are the Delaware Social Studies Standards?

The Delaware Social Studies Standards are written to address social studies content knowledge and skill in civics, economics, geography, and history. Social Studies prepares young people to become informed and active citizens who accept their responsibilities, understand their rights, and participate actively in society and government.

How does the new test differ from previous ones?

The Grade 8 Social Studies test is a through-year assessment, with short tests administered multiple times through the course of the school year. The Grade 8 U.S. History course is organized around three time periods: 1783–1820, 1820–1860, and 1860–1877. The questions measure how well a student understands the content and concepts in the Delaware History Standards. For example, students may be asked to demonstrate understanding of bias in sources by analyzing a document for its credibility and point of view. Through the test, students will be able to demonstrate their skills and knowledge of the concepts in the state standards. The continued focus on higher-order analytical thinking skills will better prepare students for college and career.

How long are the tests?

The DeSSA Social Studies Assessments are untimed. Each administration should take about one class period to complete.



What types of questions are on the tests?

The tests include individual questions as well as groups of questions that together assess a broad concept.

How will my student know how to complete the online test?

Training tests are available online for students and teachers to familiarize themselves with the online testing system. These tests allow users to practice using tools, answering questions, and navigating through a test. They can be accessed at <http://delaware.pearsonaccessnext.com/tutorial/>.

How often will my child take the DeSSA Social Studies Assessments?

The Grade 8 DeSSA Social Studies tests are given three times, once each in the Fall, Winter, and Spring.

