



THE DC SCIENCE ASSESSMENT

This spring, a new DC Science Assessment will be administered to students in grades 5, 8 and high school biology. Designed in collaboration with DC educators and community partners, including the Smithsonian Science Education Center, DC Science measures student mastery of science content and skills outlined in the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). DC Science focuses on interesting scientific phenomena and engineering problems and challenges students to apply scientific thinking, problem-solving, and sense-making skills.



KEY FACTS

- DC Science is a computer-based assessment, delivered in the same testing platform as PARCC.
- For each grade or subject, students will complete four units with eighteen test items.
- Students will have access to accommodations and a wide range of accessibility features for support.
- School-level results and individual student score reports will be available in the fall.



TESTIMONIALS

Here is what DC educators have to say about the new DC Science Assessment:

This test assesses our students' skill set and abilities that will be required of them in a 21st century classroom and workforce. It will help our children be competitive nationally and globally."
– Ramona Hutchins, District of Columbia Public Schools

Students are going to take the skills and strategies they use for this assessment out of the science world. Students will be using these same problem-solving skills for the rest of their lives."
– Rosalyn Parson, Friendship Collegiate Academy

All teachers in the education field had the opportunity to participate and provide valuable input [during development of the assessment] that was taken into consideration on the spot. We had teachers from the classroom who were able to look at biases, align with the NGSS standards, and consider our current curriculum." – Kamellia Keo, McKinley Middle School



LEARN MORE

- A great way to explore DC Science is by visiting the full-length practice tests. Visit www.osse.dc.gov/science to access practice tests for grades 5, 8 and high school biology. You can also explore DC Science test design and blueprints on this site.
- Learn more about the Next Generation Science Standards by visiting www.nextgenscience.org/parentguides.