



# How to Help your Student Prepare for the State Assessment

## General Preparation

- When possible, it is beneficial to establish a daily routine for meals, homework, chores, bedtime, and family time
- Provide students with a designated study area at home
- Encourage students to practice good study habits and set aside time every day for homework
- Ensure students get a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast before taking a test
- Offer praise and encouragement for achievement and improvement
- Share your enthusiasm and interest in reading, mathematics, and science with your children.



## General Test Preparation

- Make sure students have an opportunity to become familiar with the format of the test.
  - There is a link to practice tests and sample items on the Assessment Information for Families Webpage.
- Remind students to listen to and read all directions and to tackle the test one question at a time instead of thinking about the entire test
- Review Test-Taking Strategies. There are strategies that will help your child do their best on an exam
  - Arrives on time and stay relaxed
  - Encourage students to answer all test questions
  - Guessing is alright – it is best to eliminate any answers they know are incorrect first and they chose the best answer from what is left
  - Skip a question – better to skip a question that they are stuck on, flag it, and come back to it later than to spend lots of time on something they don't understand or is causing stress
  - Leave time at the end to look over your work. Did you answer every question?
- Remind students to think positively. Being in the right mindset can make all the difference. Encourage your child to think positively when heading into an exam
- Remind your student a test is not a race. Don't worry if others finish before first. They should focus on the test in front of them.



## English Language Arts (ELA) Test Preparation

- Read to students and encourage them to read to you
- Have students try crossword puzzles
- Encourage students to read the newspaper, magazines, and recreational books; and to discuss what they have read
- Discuss the events and stories you read about
- Play games that involve spelling and vocabulary (scrabble, apples to apples, boggle, balderdash, etc.)



## Mathematics Test Preparation

- Play games that involve numbers and/or computation
- Encourage students to make connections between their everyday lives and what they are learning in math class
- Encourage the use of math everyday through measuring recipes, adding prices at the store, creating a budget, explaining graphs and charts in the newspaper or magazine articles, and taking measurements while doing home projects or sewing



## Science Test Preparation

- Encourage participation in science competitions, fairs, and other activities
- Explore nature centers, zoos, and science museums
- Watch programming that shows the wide variety and interesting things going on in science. (Comos, Modern-Marvels, Myth-Busters, Shark-Week, etc.)



Jill K. Underly, PhD, • State Superintendent

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction • PO Box 7841 • Madison, WI 53707-7841

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, creed, age, national origin, ancestry, pregnancy, marital status or parental status, sexual orientation, or ability and provides equal access to the Boys Scouts of America and other designated youth groups.