
PARENT GUIDE TO LEAP CONNECT

As schools and students begin their final preparations for the LEAP Connect assessment for Students with Significant Disabilities, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) created this fact sheet to provide parents with general information about the tests, and what you and your child can expect when he or she takes the tests.

KNOW THE TEST

1. LEAP CONNECT ASSESSMENT

Each year, students enrolled in grades 3–8 and high school who meet the participation criteria for alternate assessments take a state test to measure their academic progress in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics. The test is an alternative assessment to LEAP 2025.

The LEAP Connect assessment is designed to work with the way your student communicates. Built-in supports include:

- reduced passage length in reading,
- pictures and graphics to help students understand,
- models in reading, writing and mathematics,
- common geometric shapes and smaller numbers on the mathematics test,
- one-on-one administration by teacher or another trained staff member, and
- any additional accommodations as described in the student’s IEP.

2. LEAP CONNECT DESIGN

Each session of the LEAP Connect is untimed, allowing for students to move at their own pace and test administrators to pause testing for breaks as needed. The LEAP Connect ELA assessment consists of four sessions.

| GRADE | SESSION 1 & 2 | SESSION 3 | SESSION 4 |
|----------|---|---|------------------------------|
| 3-8, 11* | Reading-Multiple Choice/ Selected Response | Writing-Multiple Choice/ Selected Response | Writing-Constructed Response |

The LEAP Connect mathematics assessment consists of two sessions.

| GRADE | SESSION 1 & 2 | SESSION 3 | SESSION 4 |
|----------|--|--|------------------------------|
| 3-8, 11* | Selected Response/Multiple Choice and Constructed Response** | Selected Response/Multiple Choice & Constructed Response** | Writing-Constructed Response |

*Only 11th graders who need to take LEAP Connect to meet a graduation requirement will test in 2017–2018

**Grades 6 & 7–mathematics does not contain constructed response.

ONLINE TESTING SCHEDULE: FEBRUARY 5–MARCH 16, 2018

Schools determine the schedule for administering the on-line tests during this window based on a student’s needs and abilities; therefore, testing days and session rotation will vary by student.

3. TEST RESULTS

Schools and school systems will receive individual student reports in May. Each school system will decide how to share this information, but teachers, parents and students will be provided with the scores along with an explanation.

Results from the tests will be used to help teachers identify when students need additional support or more challenging work in ELA and mathematics. Additionally, the results are used to plan an appropriate educational program for each student.

PREPARE FOR THE TEST

4. KNOW WHAT YOUR CHILD IS LEARNING

You can help your child prepare for the LEAP Connect assessment by:

- Reinforcing skills that are targeted on your child's IEP
- Consulting with your child's teacher to determine which LA Connectors are being addressed in classroom instruction
- Reviewing the Online Testing Tools and practicing taking the test in the online platform.

By understanding what your child should know and be able to do this year, you will be better positioned to help your child connect the dots between what he/she is learning and the assessment.

5. USEFUL LINKS

- LA Connectors for Students with Significant Disabilities: <http://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/students-with-disabilities/k-12-louisiana-connectors-for-students-with-significant-disabilities.pdf?sfursn=10>
- Louisiana Connectors Parent Guide: <https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/academics/louisiana-connectors-parent-guide.pdf?sfursn=4>
- Louisiana's Educational Rights of Children with Disabilities: <https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/academics/louisiana's-educational-rights-of-children-with-disabilities.pdf?sfursn=17>
- LEAP Connect Assessment Guide: <http://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/assessment/leap-connect-assessment-guide.pdf?sfursn=4>
- Resources for Parents of Students with Disabilities: <http://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/students-with-disabilities/resources-for-parents-of-students-with-disabilities.pdf?sfursn=6>
- LEAP Connect Sample Items: <http://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/students-with-disabilities/leap-connect-sample-items-oct-2017.pdf?sfursn=4>
- LEAP Connect Online Tools Training (Through Google Chrome): <https://wbte.drceidirect.com/LA/portals/la>

For more information about this or any other statewide assessment, talk to your child's principal or teacher, or email the Department at assessment@la.gov.
