# SC READY Assessment: A Brochure for Parents and Students

## Overview

- The South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Assessment (SC READY) is a statewide assessment in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics.

- All students in grades 3–8, including students with disabilities and English learners (ELs), must be administered SC READY, except those students who qualify for the alternate test, as determined by their IEP team.

- The SC READY tests measure the South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards taught in ELA and Math classes.

## Testing Window

- The SC READY assessment **must be administered during the last twenty school days** as determined by each district's instructional calendar. Districts and schools will schedule specific testing dates.

- The SCDE recommends that districts schedule **grade three testing during the first week** of the testing window due to the need for test scores when making decisions required by the South Carolina Read to Succeed Act.

## Grade 3 and The South Carolina Read to Succeed Act

- The South Carolina Read to Succeed Act states that a student must be retained in third grade if the student fails to demonstrate reading proficiency at the end of third grade. The law specifies six good cause exemptions from mandatory retention; one of these exemptions is student attendance at a Summer Reading Camp.

- **SC READY reading scores will be used to identify students who do not demonstrate proficiency in grade 3 reading** and are candidates to attend Summer Reading Camp (one of the six "good cause" exemptions). For more information on the Read to Succeed Act, parents should contact their school, or visit the SC READY webpage at **https://ed.sc.gov/tests/middle/sc-ready/**.

## Test Administration

- The SC READY tests are not timed. Estimated times for the average student are: 1 hour and 40 minutes for ELA Session 1; 1.5 hours for ELA Session 2; and 1.5 hours for Mathematics.

- The ELA test is administered over two days with one session each day.

- In grades 3–5, the math test is administered in one session in one day. In grades 6–8, the math test is divided into a "calculator" section and a "no calculator" section, both to be administered in one day.

## Test Format

- SC READY assessments will be administered in a computer-based format only, with the following exceptions:
  - Students who cannot take online assessments due to their disabilities, as specified in their IEPs or 504 plans, may be tested in a paper-based format.
  - Districts receiving a waiver from the State Board of Education may test in a paper-based format.

## Translations/Accessibility

- Parent resources such as this brochure, sample score reports, and a Score Report User's Guide, can be provided in multiple languages and in an accessible format compliant with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Contact your child's school or SCDE for assistance.

# Types of Test Items

- ELA and mathematics tests have test questions with varying degrees of difficulty.

- The ELA test includes a variety of question types, such as selected-response, evidence-based selected response, multi-select, technology-enhanced items for online testers, as well as a Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA) question, which consists of a passage with a related writing task.

- The mathematics test includes a variety of questions, such as selected-response, multi-select, short answer, and technology-enhanced items for online testers. Technology-enhanced items may include drag and drop, graphing, constructed-response items (type in a number), and others.

# Sample Items

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Read the draft of a student's essay.

Zookeepers spend their days with animals. They learn what the animals like best and how to care for them. Many of the humans and animals form special relationships. The zookeepers are able to watch the animals grow and change over time. Sometimes, there is also an opportunity to feed and care for baby animals that are born in the zoo. What could be more fun and exciting than that?
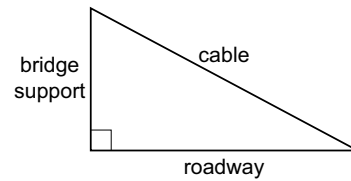
Which sentence would provide the **best** introduction for the paragraph?

A.    I hope to visit the zoo this summer with my family.
B.    Animals such as bears and monkeys can be seen in many zoos.
C.    I think that working at a zoo would be the best type of job.
D.    There are hundreds of zoos in cities around the world.

Key = C

### MATHEMATICS

The figure shows a bridge support, a cable, and the roadway of a bridge.



The bridge support is 80 feet tall. The length of the cable is 170 feet. What is the distance, in feet, from the base of the bridge support to the point where the cable connects to the roadway?

A.    90
B.    150
C.    190
D.    250

Key = B

# Sample Questions, Tutorials, and Online Tools Training (OTT)

- The SC READY webpage (**https://ed.sc.gov/tests/middle/sc-ready/**) provides practice, preparation, and reference resources including:

  - Samples of test questions from previous years.

  - Online Testing Video Tutorials, with step-by-step instructions on how to use the online testing system. Schools should review these tutorials with students in advance of testing.

  - Online Tools Training (OTT): this module simulates the testing environment and allows students to practice using the testing software and tools available during testing such as the highlighter, magnifier, and calculator.

# Test Results

- Districts will receive electronic copies of student score reports by August 9. By August 17, districts will receive paper copies to distribute to parents.

- ELA and Math results include scale scores, performance levels, and performance by reporting category.

- The overall performance levels are: Exceeds Expectations, Meets Expectations, Approaches Expectations, and Does Not Meet Expectations.

# Additional Information

- More information about SC READY is available on the South Carolina Department of Education website at: **https://ed.sc.gov/tests/middle/sc-ready/**.