SCPASS Assessment: A Brochure for Parents and Students

Overview

- The South Carolina Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (SCPASS) is a statewide assessment in science.

- The science test is given to students in grades 4 and 6.

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

- The SCPASS tests measure the South Carolina academic standards taught in science classes.

Testing Window

- **SCPASS 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.

Test Format

- The tests are **not timed**.

- SCPASS 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.

Types of Test Questions

- Science tests contain test questions with varying degrees of difficulty.

- The tests may include a variety of question types, such as multiple-choice, multi-select, and technology-enhanced questions such as drag and drop, hot spot, and drop-down list items.
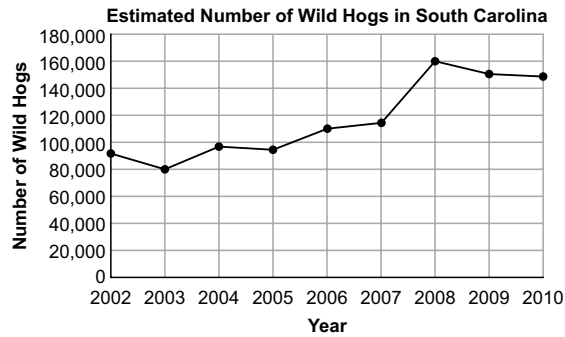
Translations/Accessibility

- 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.

Sample Items

Science—Grade 4

The graph shows the estimated population of wild hogs in South Carolina between 2002 and 2010.

Estimated Number of Wild Hogs in South Carolina

Which information is **best** supported by these data?

A.   The wild hog population increased between 2008 and 2009.

B.   More wild hogs were in South Carolina in 2010 than in 2002.

C.   The wild hog population decreased between 2005 and 2008.

D.   More people in South Carolina had wild hogs in 2007 than in 2008.

Key = B

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

- The SCPASS webpage (**http://ed.sc.gov/tests/middle/scpass/**) provides practice, preparation, and reference resources including:
  - Online Testing Video Tutorials, with step-by-step instructions on how to use the online testing system. Schools should review these tutorials with students before testing.
  - Online Tools Training (OTT) for students: this online module simulates the SCPASS testing system and allows students to practice using the testing software and all of the tools available during testing, such as the highlighter, magnifier, and calculator.
  - Sample SCPASS science questions from previous years.

Test Results

- Districts will receive electronic copies of student score reports by August 2. By August 17, districts will receive paper copies to distribute to parents.
- SCPASS test results include scale scores, performance levels, and performance by reporting category.
- The overall performance levels for science are Exceeds Expectations, Meets Expectations, Approaches Expectations, and Does Not Meet Expectations.

Additional Information

- More information about SCPASS is located on the SCDE website, including:
  - Sample questions
  - Test blueprints showing the number and types of questions
  - More information about score reports
- The SCDE webpage is here: **http://ed.sc.gov/tests/middle/scpass/**.