

Common Core 2013 State Test Results

Dennis M. Walcott: Hi. I'm New York City Schools' Chancellor, Dennis Walcott. As you know, New York City is transitioning to the Common Core Standards. These new learning standards describe what skills and knowledge students need at each grade level to graduate from high school ready for college and careers. With time and support, teachers' instruction with these higher standards will help lead to greater opportunities for all of our students.

Dannielle Colleran: Throughout the last couple of years that we've been working with the Common Core standards, the levels of conversations in the classrooms has become more sophisticated, has become more challenging of the students, has forced our students to think at such a deeper level.

Dennis M. Walcott: We will continue to work together to support our school communities and meet these higher standards. The results of the new State Common Core Tests establish a new baseline from which we will rise. This summer, the state released the results on the new grades three through eight state tests. For the first time these tests were based on the Common Core standards and were more challenging than in the past. As a result, about 30% of elementary and middle school students earned a score that means they are on track for college and career readiness.

Marcus Ramirez: I think we are being better prepared for college and our careers in the future because in college, we are going to get challenged and we're going to have to overcome obstacles. And since they're telling us now what we have to do to get to those obstacles and to overcome them, it'll better prepare us. It helps make us better students and better people in life too.

Dennis M. Walcott: I would like you to keep a few things in mind as you discuss these results with your child and your community. First, these results do not mean students are not as smart as they were last year. The new tests are more rigorous and students will reach at this higher bar in time. Second, students, teachers and schools are not being punished by these scores. We have always known this transition would take years, not just a summer. Our teachers, principals and school communities have been working hard and will get there. The results on the new state test gives us a better understanding of where our students are on the path to graduating prepared for college and a good job. And we are continuing to work to advance all of our students. Throughout this summer, we have been training hundreds of teachers a day and the support will continue over the course of the school year. We are doubling the amount of money schools have to provide small group tutoring and additional supports after school and on Saturdays. In addition, all elementary and middle school classrooms will have new curriculum that is based on the Common Core. The work from teachers, principals and students that I see when I visit classrooms, as well as our schools' historic progress over the last decade gives me confidence for our work ahead.