



## TALKING POINTS ON ASSESSMENTS

*Discussing Annual Statewide Assessment Results and the Importance of These Assessments*

How state and local leaders talk about assessments matter. Clearly communicating to parents, families, and the general public why students take the annual statewide assessment each year and how that data is being used to serve students is critical for allowing schools and families to work together to support all students as well as ensuring continued support for these assessments. The document contains suggested talking points that can be used for discussing annual statewide assessments. Some talking points allow for customization with local data. Hover over the text field for information about what to include in each box to complete the customized talking points.

### FOR STATE OFFICIALS—STATE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION, BOARDS OF EDUCATION, GOVERNOR’S OFFICES, AND LEGISLATORS

- The result of the annual statewide assessment will allow us to target state resources to the students, schools, and districts that need them most. For instance,  students across the state saw . In order to build on this progress, we’re planning to invest \$  for  in

[ ] to continue to raise student achievement in [ ].

- The result of annual statewide assessment will allow us to target state resources to the students, schools, and districts that need them most. For instance, [ ] students across the state saw [ ].  
As a result, we're planning to invest \$ [ ] for [ ] in the [ ] schools with the highest proportions of [ ] students to help raise student achievement in [ ].
- These results highlight the progress we've made, and important work still left to be done to ensure that *all* of [ ]'s students are prepared for college and careers.  
[ ]
- We have incomplete data from the past couple of years due to the pandemic. It is critical that we administer the annual statewide assessment to better understand which students' learning was impacted the most.
- This year's (2022) annual statewide assessment will be the first chance to get a full picture of how students across the state are performing academically since before the pandemic, allowing us to give educators, schools and districts the support and resources they need to help students get back on track.
- The results of the annual statewide assessment are an important tool for informing our understanding of students' learning needs and providing students, educators, schools, and districts resources to address those needs.
- The annual statewide assessment empowers educators and families with an understanding how students are performing toward state standards. By identifying whether students have the skills and knowledge they need to be on-track for college and careers, we can ensure all students have the supports they need to succeed.

- The annual statewide assessment are the *only* data we have at the state level to compare the academic achievement of *all* students across the state, which is critical for ensuring equitable opportunities for all of ’s students.



## FOR LOCAL OFFICIALS—SUPERINTENDENTS, PRINCIPALS, DISTRICT LEADERS, MAYORS, SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

- State assessments help us at school and you at home know how their child is performing towards grade-level standards, which ensure students are on track to graduate from high school with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed.
- We have incomplete data from the past couple of years due to the pandemic. It is critical that we administer the annual statewide assessment to better understand which students’ learning was impacted the most.
- These results highlight the progress we’ve made and the important work still left to be done to ensure that *all* of ’s students are prepared for college and careers.
- The results of the annual statewide assessment are an important tool for informing our understanding of students' learning needs and providing our students, educators, and schools with the resources to address those needs.
- While state summative assessments don’t give us all the information we need, they are a key component of the full data picture that is helpful in identifying where our students and schools are succeeding compared to grade-level standards and where they need additional support for learning.
- The annual statewide assessment provides key data at the district level that allows us to compare the academic achievement of *all* students across the district, which is critical for identifying potential gaps in achievement between our schools and ensuring equitable opportunities for all of ’s students.