

SIRS v. 14.8

“Validity Rules”: Reporting Students with Valid or Invalid Scores

New York State Testing Program (NYSTP) Assessments in ELA and Mathematics

Department Policy:

All students are expected to participate in State assessments as part of the core academic program. Absences from all or part of the required academic program should be managed in accordance with the attendance policies of the district pursuant to Section 104.1(i) of Commissioner’s Regulations. For accountability and other statewide reporting purposes, students will be counted as “not tested” only if one of the following occurs:

- The student’s SIRS record shows him or her as enrolled for the entire test administration period but includes no appropriate test record,
- The student is absent from school for one or more of the test sessions and the missed session(s) are not completed during the makeup period,
- The student is present for one or more test sessions but did not respond to even one question on the test,
- The student refused all the test sessions, or
- The student’s results were invalidated due to an administrative error.

Present for All Sessions: Students who are in attendance at their school of enrollment for all sessions/parts of the test (during the test administration period or make-up period) are considered in attendance for the assessment and cannot be marked as absent unless the student becomes ill during the test session or earlier that day. Students who are in attendance, respond to at least one item on the test **and are not identified as absent**, including embedded non-operational research items, will receive a valid score and a valid performance level.

For ungraded students: According to the ungraded/DOB age chart, the student must take the appropriate assessment to receive a valid score. If the DOB age range and grade do not match the grade in the “Item Description” field, then the student must receive a scale score of “999” and a standard achieved code/performance level of “97” indicating an administrative error receiving no valid score.

Students present for all sessions/parts of the test will be counted as tested in verification reports and for accountability calculations. Note that the assessment a student is reported to have taken must be at the same grade level as the grade reported for the student for the score to be considered valid. The assessment reported for an ungraded student must be appropriate based on the student’s date of birth, as indicated in the “Assessments by Birth Date/Age for Ungraded Students in 2018–19” table in the “Ungraded Students” section of this chapter. For example, a student reported as in the

third grade must be reported with a Grade 3 ELA assessment to have a valid score. A third grader who is reported with a Grade 5 ELA assessment will receive a scale score of “999” and a standard achieved code/performance level of “97”, indicating administrative error. An ungraded student whose date of birth indicates she/he should take the Grade 3 ELA assessment but who is reported with a Grade 5 ELA assessment will receive a final score of “999” and a standard achieved code/performance level of “97”, indicating administrative error.

Absent: Students who are absent for any session or absent for the entire test, will receive from the vendor a scale score of “999” and a standard achieved code/performance level of “99” indicating absent/no valid score, whether or not there are any response records. For example, if a student is marked as absent yet answered at least one question on the test, the standard achieved code/performance level of “99” overrides the partial score calculated by the questions answered. These students will be counted as not tested in verification reports and for accountability calculations.

In the case where a student leaves the test administration in the middle of a test session due to illness and was not able to make up that part of the test during the test administration or make-up administration period, the school official must decide whether to mark the student as absent. If the student is not marked as absent, the student will receive a score based on the questions completed and a performance level and scale score will be calculated. If the absent circle is darkened in, the student will receive from the vendor a scale score of “999” and a standard achieved code/performance level of “99” indicating absent/no valid score.

Note: Students who are in attendance at their school of enrollment for all sessions of the test, during the test administration period or make-up period, are considered in attendance for the assessment and cannot be marked as absent unless the student becomes ill during the test session or earlier that day. If a student is marked as absent yet answered at least one question on the test, the scale score of “999” and performance level of “99” overrides the partial score calculated by the questions answered.

Refusal: Refusal Code (standard achieved code/performance level of “96”) should be used for students who refused **both** sessions (Books) of the test. The “96” refusal code can only be used for students who refused the entire test and is not to be used for students who refused part of the test (partial refusals). Students who refused the entire test (**both** sessions) must have a scale score of “999” and a standard achieved code/performance level of “96” indicating no valid score. The “96” refusal code is moved to Level 2 of the Student Information Repository System. These students will be considered to have “no valid test score” and will be counted as not tested.

If a student answered **at least** one question but refused other questions/sessions of the test, the student will receive a valid score based upon the questions answered. A performance level and scale score **will** be calculated. The question answered can be an operational test question or an embedded field test question. As long as one question is

answered and the circle denoting absent for one or more test sessions is not darkened, the student will receive a valid score.

Administrative Error: Students for whom errors were made in the administration of the test (e.g., the student was present, but the test was not administered to the student and the school/district was required to administer it, prompts were given to the student, materials that would assist students in taking the test were in view of the students during the administration, etc.) are considered to have “no valid test score.” These students must be reported with a scale score of “999” and a standard achieved code/performance level of “97,” indicating administrative error, and will be counted as not tested in verification reports and for accountability calculations. For additional guidance on administrative errors, see the [School Administrator’s Manual](#).

If a student is marked as administrative error yet answered at least one question on the test, the standard achieved code/performance level of “97” overrides the partial score calculated by the questions answered.

Medically Excused: Students who are incapacitated by illness or injury during the test administration and make-up periods and have on file documentation from a medical practitioner that they were too incapacitated to complete the test at the school, at home, or in a medical setting, are considered medically excused and will have no valid test score. These students must be reported with a scale score of “999” and a standard achieved code/performance level of “93.” These students are excluded from the numerator and the denominator of the participation and performance accountability calculations.

Medically excused during test administration: If a student takes one or more sessions but is later identified as “medically excused” by a medical practitioner, the standard achieved code/performance level of “93” overrides the partial score calculated by the questions answered.