

Science Grades 4-5 PILOT CONTEST



Thank you for your interest in piloting the Science 4-5 test at district this year. This guide gives the particulars of this contest, including format, rules, and curriculum expectations.

TEST

Time: 30 minutes

Format: 30 multiple-choice (A-D) questions. Test questions will be presented in two columns with the possible exception where graphics need to take up more space.

Specifics: No calculators, rulers, charts, etc. are allowed to be used by the contestants. Any charts of necessary information will be supplied in the test itself. Contestants should bring their own pencil/pen to the contest only. No scratch paper will be given, but the test will have extra space at the bottom of each page for the contestants to do work as necessary.

Marking Answers: Same as Science 6-8. (Use CAPITAL letters only, A through D)

Scoring: Same scoring as Science 6-8.

Advancing to State: Since this is a pilot contest, there will be no advancing to State. We are looking for feedback from the participating districts on the nature of the contest before deciding to promote Science 4-5 to a full contest, run as a pilot for another year, or disband the contest.

CURRICULUM

The standard TEKS for Grades 4 and 5 will be used. In particular, contestants can expect the following topics on the Science 4-5 test (this is a strong suggestive list, not a restrictive list—other appropriate topics allowed):

- critical thinking and scientific problem solving
- instrument measurements
- matter and energy (classification, measurable physical properties, and changes)
- force, motion, and energy (particularly cycles, patterns, and systems; classifications of force and energy: light, sound, mechanical, thermal)
- earth and space (our planet, its resources and cycles, planets, the solar systems, moons, and stars)
- life science (organisms, ecosystem interaction, life processes, and the environment)
- electrical science (batteries, circuits, resistors, switches, conductors/insulators)
- meteorology (weather cycles, patterns, reading maps; water cycle)

RESOURCES

- PSIA Science 4-5 Practice Test
- Released STAAR Science tests for Grade 5
- Your Science textbooks