



Assistant Commissioner
Office of State Assessment

August 2019

TO: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Schools
Principals of Public, Religious, and Independent Schools
Leaders of Charter Schools

FROM: Steven E. Katz *Steven E. Katz*

SUBJECT: Comparability of Spring 2019 Grades 3-8 English Language Arts and Mathematics Paper-based and Computer-based Tests

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information about the results of the comparability study that was conducted for the Spring 2019 Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics paper-based and computer-based tests.

Background

In Spring 2019, the Department offered the Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics Tests in two administration modes: paper-based testing (PBT) and computer-based testing (CBT). Administering these tests via CBT was optional for schools and those schools that chose to offer CBT made this decision independently for each subject and grade. The Department provided readiness verification tools to help those schools selecting CBT ensure they were well equipped and prepared to provide a successful CBT experience for their students. Additionally, several CBT practice test sessions were made available to CBT schools to familiarize students and teachers with the CBT delivery system. Each of the CBT practice test sessions featured examples of all of the types of test questions incl A i

For those tests in which a difference in mean scale scores between the two comparable groups was observed, the scale scores for all students who took the test in that grade via CBT, (which

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