

# ACTAAP

Arkansas Comprehensive Testing,  
Assessment, and Accountability Program

## **A NOTE TO PARENTS**

**End-of-Course Examinations  
Geometry, Algebra I, and Biology  
April 2009**

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## IMPORTANCE OF THE ARKANSAS COMPREHENSIVE TESTING, ASSESSMENT, AND ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM (ACTAAP)

The **Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program (ACTAAP)** focuses on testing to measure application of basic skills and problem-solving skills that are essential to the success of students in school. The ACTAAP criterion-referenced tests have been developed to measure achievement of the Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks (the state-level expectations for instruction) and will identify those students who may be in need of additional instruction in language arts, mathematics, and science.

In April 2009, students will take the End-of-Course Examinations. The administration of Geometry will be conducted on April 21 and 22, 2009, the administration of Algebra I will be conducted on April 23 and 24, 2009, and the administration of Biology will be conducted on April 28 and 29, 2009.

It is important for parents to be aware of the purpose of the End-of-Course Examinations and the dates for testing. It is also essential that parents be involved in students' ongoing preparation for testing as well as preparation immediately preceding testing.

## HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

When a test is to be given, you can help by making sure your student

- gets plenty of sleep the night before the test;
- has breakfast on the morning of the test;
- goes to school on the day of the test;
- knows you think he/she will do well on the test;
- knows you understand that the test is important.

To help your student learn at home

- encourage your student to read;
- be interested in what your student does in school (ask what happens each day);
- ask to see your student's school papers;
- talk with and listen to your student (ask each other questions and share experiences);
- visit stores, museums, festivals, etc., with your student and talk about them;
- go to parent-teacher conferences;
- let your student know that you think a good education is important;
- get to know your student's teacher;
- tell your student that it is okay to ask the teacher questions;
- check frequently to ensure that your student is completing all assigned work in a timely manner;
- urge your student to strive for excellence in all that he/she does.