

Pittsfield School District

NECAP Talking Points for Teachers and Parents

1. NECAP tests in reading, math, and writing are designed to measure students' progress in meeting New Hampshire Grade Level Expectations (GLEs).
2. GLEs are standards of performance – what students should know and be able to do – that form the basis for our school curriculum.
3. The NECAP tests include a variety of types of test items, including multiple choice questions, short answer questions, constructed response questions that require written responses, and a writing prompt.
4. The tests are administered statewide in October; results are sent to schools in January.
5. The NECAP is important in helping determine how well schools are doing in helping students meet standards and expectations (GLEs).
6. The NECAP results are only meaningful and helpful when students do their best and give a strong effort in answering the test questions.
7. NECAP results provide one perspective on how individual students are doing and how we, as a school and community, are doing; other assessments are also used to guide decisions on student learning and school programs.
8. NECAP results help teachers to make decisions about what to teach children to support their long-term success.
9. Test performance is supported by a positive attitude, a good night's rest prior to testing, and good nutrition.
10. To support a best effort, students are encouraged to:
 - Minimize negative self-talk, such as “I can't...,” “I will never...,” “I won't...”
 - Stress a positive attitude, such as “I can...,” “I will...,” “Yes...”
 - “Show what you know;”
 - Give an honest, best effort on the tests.
11. To support a best effort, adults are encouraged to:
 - Explain the reason for the tests;
 - Convey enthusiasm for the tests;
 - Encourage students to “show what you know;”
 - Express appreciation for students' honest, best efforts on the tests.
12. Remember that we're all in this together; the NECAP will reflect on individual students, our schools, and our community.