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April 2013

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ACTAAP

Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program

A NOTE TO PARENTS

Augmented Benchmark Examinations Grades 3–8 & The Iowa Tests® Grades 1–2 and Grade 9

April 2013

Arkansas Department of Education

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). The Iowa Tests® are norm-referenced tests, which measure the performance of individual Arkansas students with the performance of students in the national norm group. These test results will identify those students who may be in need of additional instruction in language arts, mathematics, and science as required by legislation. The results will also inform school and district curricular and instructional practices.

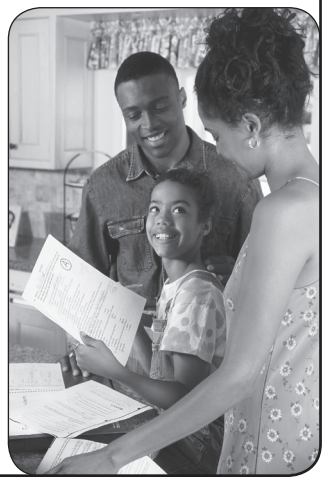
The Augmented Benchmark Examinations for grades 3–8 will be administered on April 8–12, 2013. The Iowa Tests for grades 1, 2, and 9 will be administered during the testing window of April 1–12, 2013.

It is important for parents to be aware of the purpose of the Augmented Benchmark Examinations and The Iowa Tests as well as the dates for testing. It is also essential that parents be involved in their students' ongoing preparation for testing, as well as preparation immediately before scheduled 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.