

Frequently Asked Questions about SAGE Testing

Testing Ethics – Utah Educators shall ensure that:

- An appropriate environment is set for testing to limit distractions
- All students who are eligible to test are tested or recorded as to why they didn't participate
- A student is NOT discouraged from participating in testing
- Students are not rewarded for participating in or performing well on tests
- Students are provided an educational activity if they are opted out of tests
- A proctor is present and active proctoring takes place for the entire testing session
- NO person is left alone with student tests left onscreen or open
 - A teacher must NEVER log in as a student or submit a test for a student
- The good faith efforts of all students are not undermined by suggesting to students how to do the test
 - Saying things like "Do only the first 15 problems today." "Write a rough draft today, and then you will type the response tomorrow."
- Instructions in the Test Administration Manual (TAM) for each assessment are followed and read exactly as written.
- Accommodations are provided to all eligible students as identified by EL, IEP/504 teams
- All electronic devices shall be inaccessible by students

Q: What can be left up on the walls? What must be removed or covered up?

A: Posters that are general in nature, such as encouragement and general skills are allowed.

Anything that would be a resource to find answers – spelling/grammar rules, math or science tables/formulas, word walls must be removed or covered up.

Q: What are the ELA writing guidelines?

A: USBE - There are different suggestions for number of paragraphs depending on the grade. Some say 1-3 paragraphs, some say 2-3 paragraphs, and starting with Argument in 6th grade it says write an essay. Those paragraph guidelines are just suggestions, and length of the essay is not actually a part of the scoring rubric. If students write a fully sustained response in two paragraphs or in seven paragraphs, they can receive a proficient score. They are not docked if they write more paragraphs than the suggested amount, as long as the essay meets the elements of the rubric.

Q: How long should I give a student before marking 'Refused to Test'?

A: USBE says that students who refuse to engage with the test should be marked "Refuse to Test." USBE wants the student to have several opportunities to make sure it is not just a "bad day" that prevents testing.

Q: What can I say to an ELL student that is in the US for one year, and has to take all SAGE tests, and is visibly upset because they don't know what to do?

A: Use words that will calm the student down and encourage them to do what they can, such as: “Do the best you can.” “It’s okay if you don’t know.” “Take your time and just try.”

Do not say things that are specific to the test. Such as:

“Just answer 6 questions.” “Just click ‘A’ or enter ‘6’ or write, “I don’t know.” “You do not have to do the test.”

Q: What are the testing times for the SAGE tests?

A:

Course	Test Administration	Most students should be finished	All students should be finished
Science Math	All	90 minutes	135 minutes
ELA	Reading, Language, Listening (all grades)	90 minutes	135 minutes
ELA Writing	Writing (Grades 3-8, 11) One prompt	60 minutes	90 minutes

USBE – Though assessments are untimed, it is inappropriate for the test administer to allow students to take excessive time to test. In rare circumstances a student may need to take longer than expected times. These situations must be discussed with the LEA Assessment Director to ensure that students have an appropriate opportunity to complete testing.

Q: Why can't my student see the problem they were on during the last testing session?

A: For all SAGE testing, except Writing, there is a twenty (20) minute pause rule. This rule will prohibit students from reviewing any questions that have been answered or shown to the students after being logged out of testing for longer than twenty minutes. Students will be able to review previous answers or questions that they have read previously if they access the paused test within twenty minutes.

During the last 5 minutes of a testing session, students should be told to review previously answered questions before leaving the test.

This may happen with the 6th- 8th grade science clusters, and Reading tests with multiple questions in each section.