

# Testing FAQs

**Why is Utah changing assessments?** The contract USBE has had with the SAGE provider expires in 2018, making it necessary to seek requests for proposals (RFP). Questar was selected by the RFP committee as the best solution to provide the Utah Standards Assessment that is required by Utah Statute 53E-4-303.

**Will RISE be computer adaptive?** Yes, the statute requires this test to be computer adaptive, but this assessment will be multistage adaptive rather than item adaptive like the SAGE.

**How does a multistage adaptive test differ from item adaptive test?** Like item adaptive, multistage testing is an algorithm-based approach to administering tests but rather than selecting individual items, groups of items are selected, building the test in stages.

**What are the advantages of a multistage adaptive test?** The biggest advantage for students is, they will be allowed full navigation (backward, forward, review, & revise) within each stage or test section. In addition, multistage tests can sequence test content in a logical, predictable and standardized way, allowing for full use of the item bank.



**Will my students use a different interface to access the test?** Yes, it will continue to be delivered on computers, but the URL associated with the test will change. Questar will provide the test through their delivery system, which is called Nextera.

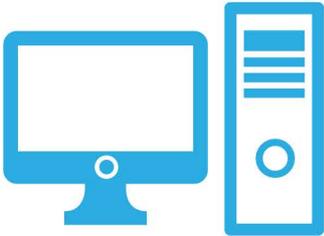
**Which students will participate in RISE and for which subjects?**

Students in grades 3-8 will participate in RISE. ELA and math will be measured in all grades, science in grades 4-8 and writing in both 5th and 8th grade

**How long will the tests take?** The tests should take about the same length of time as the previous test took.

**Why aren't 9th and 10th grade students included in RISE?** Utah statute 53E-4-304 requires USBE to select an assessment for 9th and 10th grade students that is predictive of a student's college readiness as measured by the college readiness assessment most commonly submitted to local universities. This requirement resulted in the selection of a separate assessment for the 9th and 10th grade students.

**Why aren't we assessing writing in all grades anymore?** The Utah State Board of Education made a policy decision to only assess writing in grades 5 and 8. Writing is still part of the Utah ELA Core and it is expected that students are being taught and assessed in those standards at the local level.



**Will my students receive an individual report on their writing proficiency?** Yes, the 5th and 8th grade students will receive a separate report, detailing their proficiency as measured against the writing standards of the Utah Core.

**What will happen to the trend data we have been gathering over the last 5 years?** USBE is working to maintain trend data for all tested subjects, including maintaining the same scale score and performance level descriptors.

**Will the interim and benchmark test still be available for use by Utah teachers?** Yes, Questar will provide these productivity tools for teacher use. These tests are not required and are not included in the school accountability system but can be used by English, math, and science teachers to quickly measure student learning and adjust instruction throughout the learning cycle.