



**Spring 2026**  
**Test Administrator Braille Script**  
**for Paper-Based Testing**

**English Language Arts/Literacy**

**The Test Administrator Braille Script must be used with the**  
***Test Administrator Manual for Paper-Based Testing.***



## Tasks for Test Administrators to Complete BEFORE the Braille Test Administration

Refer to Section 3.0 of the *Test Administrator Manual* for more information on tasks to complete before testing.

### Note:

- The student will write answers using a braille writing device (e.g., braillewriter, braille note-taker, slate and stylus) or other method identified in their Individualized Education Program (IEP or 504 Plan). The student should number their responses to be sure that their answers can be transcribed accurately onto an answer document.
- The words “Go On” are omitted at the bottom of the page. The word “STOP” is retained at the bottom of the page.
- Page numbers that match the print test book are in the top right corner in the braille test book.
- Braille test books may be disassembled for testing, but must be reassembled for return. To reassemble the braille test books, you may staple or binder clip all pages for return to Pearson. It is critical that schools check the number of pages in the braille test book prior to disassembling the braille test books to help ensure that all pages are returned. Failure to return all pages will be considered a breach of security.
- During the test, a student taking the test electronically may emboss a copy of their answers to review. A final copy of the student’s responses must then be printed for transcription purposes. Both the embossed and final copies of the student’s work must be returned to the STC after testing.

### Before students arrive for each section, do the following:

- Ensure that the testing room is prepared as described in Sections 2.3 and 3.6 of the *Test Administrator Manual*.
- Verify you have the schedule of times for the day’s test sections.
- Make sure you have the correct braille test books for your group to be tested.
- Verify you have the correct picture descriptions for English language arts/literacy.
- If applicable, make sure that recreational books and other allowable materials for after testing are out of reach of the students during testing.
- Make sure you have a list of the accommodations for the students testing. Consult the *Maryland Assessment, Accessibility, and Accommodations Policy Manual* for the list of available accessibility features and accommodations for paper-based testing.
  - If the student requires a Human Reader, follow the protocol outlined in **Appendix E** of the *Maryland Assessment, Accessibility, and Accommodations Policy Manual*.
  - If one or more students are testing with extended time accommodations, you will need to adjust the amount of time each student will have to complete each section. Refer to each student’s accommodations for information on extended time, and follow the guidelines outlined in **Appendix C** of the *Maryland Assessment, Accessibility, and Accommodations Policy Manual*.
  - If one or more students in your group needs a word-to-word dictionary as an accommodation, have these available to students or allow students to bring their own.

## Reminders for Test Administrators DURING the Braille Test Administration

Refer to Section 4.0 and 5.0 of the *Test Administrator Manual* for more information on tasks to complete during and after testing.

When announcing the amount of time students will have to complete each section, be sure to adjust the amount of time available to all students who have approved extended time accommodations.

During testing, you must focus your full attention on the students at all times to confirm that they are working independently. Ensure that all student desks are free of any prohibited materials, and that all prohibited aids in the classroom have been removed or covered. Refer to Sections 2.2 and 2.3 of the *Test Administrator Manual* for more information.

If a student starts a test section and leaves school without finishing (e.g., due to illness, family emergency), they may be allowed to complete that test on a different day. If you have concerns about a student completing a section, you should not allow the student to begin. If a student leaves during a section, contact the STC for additional information on students returning to complete a test.

If you have questions regarding policy, security breaches, or irregularities, consult your STC.

Read only the bold instructions in each **SAY** box to students. Text that is outside the **SAY** boxes includes directions for TAs to follow and should not be read to students. Refer to Section 4.6 of the *Test Administrator Manual* for guidance on redirecting students and clarifying directions during an administration. TAs are permitted to clarify **only** scripted administration instructions after reading the script word-for-word. No passages or test items may be clarified.

In-between test sections, have students place a bookmark in their braille test book to help them identify their place in the exam when they return to the next section.

## Reminders for Test Administrators AFTER the Braille Test Administration

- If the student recorded their answers electronically, TAs should print out a copy of the student's answer sheet or ink print the student's answers above the braille cells.
- If the student recorded their answers using a computer, braille display or note-taker, be sure to delete the student's answer sheet file completely from the devices after the student has printed the file.
- If the student used any braille electronic scratch paper or made any electronic notes, ensure that these files are deleted.
- Braille test books may be disassembled for testing, but must be reassembled for return. To reassemble the braille test books, you may staple or binder clip all pages for return to Pearson. It is critical that schools check the number of pages in the braille test book prior to disassembling the test books to help ensure that all pages are returned. Failure to return all pages will be considered a breach of security.


### 4.12.2 Grade 3 – ELA/Literacy – All Sections

The administration script under Section 4.12.2 will be used **for all Sections** for the Grade 3 ELA/L Test.


TAs are required to adhere to the scripts provided in this manual for administering the MCAP assessment. Read word-for-word the bold instructions in each SAY box to students. You may not modify or paraphrase the wording in the SAY boxes. Some of the SAY boxes are outlined with a dashed line and should **ONLY** be read aloud if they are applicable to your students. Some directions may differ slightly by Section and are noted within the administration script. TAs should be familiar with the script before administering the assessment.

Section	Section Testing Time	Required Materials	Start Time	Stop Time
Sections 1–4	70 Minutes per Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Braille test books</li> <li>• Braille writing device</li> <li>• Braille paper</li> </ul>		
End of each Section – Students <b>Stop</b>				

### Instructions for Preparing to Test

	<p><b>Today, you are going to take the English Language Arts/Literacy assessment. You may not have any unapproved electronic devices at your desk. Making calls, texting, and taking pictures are not allowed. If you have any electronic devices, including cell phones, with you right now, please turn them off and raise your hand. If you are found to have unapproved electronic devices during testing, your test might not be scored.</b></p>
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If a student raises their hand, collect the electronic device (or follow your school/LEA policy) and store it until the Section is complete. Certain electronic devices may be allowed for accommodations purposes only during testing. Contact your Test Coordinator if you have questions regarding electronic devices.

	<p><b>Please sit quietly while I distribute the test materials.</b></p>
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Distribute scratch paper, braille paper, braille writing device (e.g., braille-writer, braille note-taker, slate and stylus), and approved accessibility features/accommodations tools, if needed, for certain students. Then, distribute the braille test books. Note: Some students may require the use of a signature guide to write their name on the braille test books. In these cases, have signature guides available.

Make sure each student has their name on the braille test book. If necessary, assist students with making sure they are using the braille test book that belongs to them.

## Instructions for Administering All Sections

<p><b>Say</b></p>	<p>Using the Section Tabs on the edge of the page, open your test book to the first page of Section ____ (fill in the appropriate Section number) and follow along while I read the directions. Do NOT turn the page until I tell you to do so.</p> <p>Today, you will take Section ____ (fill in the appropriate Section number) of the Grade 3 English Language Arts/Literacy Test.</p> <p>For Section 1, say: <b>There are 25 questions in this Section.</b></p> <p>For Section 2, say: <b>There are 9 questions in this Section.</b></p> <p>For Section 3, say: <b>There are 9 questions in this Section.</b></p> <p>For Section 4, say: <b>There are 19 questions in this Section.</b></p> <p>Read each passage and question. Then, follow the directions to answer each question and, if approved for a recorder, indicate your answer to the person who will record it on the answer document. Otherwise, write your answer as directed by your test administrator. If you need to change an answer, be sure to delete it completely, cross it out, or start a new line.</p> <p>One of the questions will ask you to write a response.</p> <p>If you do not know the answer to a question, you may go on to the next question. If you finish early, you may review your answers and any questions you did not answer in this Section ONLY. Do not go past the stop sign.</p>
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<p><b>Say</b></p>	<p>This is the end of the directions in your test book.</p> <p>If you finish early and have completely checked your work in this Section, raise your hand and I will collect your test materials. Once I have collected your test materials you cannot get them back.</p>
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Read only one choice from OPTION A, B, or C below based on your LEA or LEA 24 policy (refer to your STC).

<p><b>Say</b></p>	<p>OPTION A</p> <p>After I have collected your test materials, please sit quietly until the Section has ended.</p>
	<p>OPTION B</p> <p>After I have collected your test materials, I will dismiss you.</p>
	<p>OPTION C</p> <p>After I have collected your test materials, you may read a book or other allowable materials until the Section has ended.</p>

<p><b>Say</b></p>	<p>Do you have any questions?</p> <p><i>Answer any questions students may have. Repeat any of the instructions, as necessary.</i></p>
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Braille students will need an audio prompt that should include the Section number, Starting Time and Stopping Time.



**You will have 70 minutes to complete this Section. I will let you know when you have 10 minutes of testing time left.**

**Turn to the next page. You may begin working now.**

Actively proctor while students are testing:

- Redirect students as necessary (Section 4.6).
- Collect all braille test materials as students complete testing.
- If students have questions about an item, tell them, “Do the best you can.”
- If students indicate that a test item seems irregular, refer to Section 4.6.
- Ensure students do not move on to other Sections.

### Instructions for Taking a Break During Testing

The following are permitted during test administration at the discretion of the TA:

- One stretch break of up to three minutes for the entire classroom during testing for each Section. The stopping time should be adjusted by no more than three minutes if there is a stretch break.
- Individual restroom breaks during testing (do not adjust stop time).

The following security measures must be followed:

- Students must be supervised at all times during breaks.
- Braille test books must be closed or covered.
- Students are not permitted to talk to each other during testing or breaks during testing.
- Students are not permitted to use electronic devices, play games, or engage in activities that may compromise the validity of the test.

If taking a three-minute stand and stretch break during the Section:



**Please stop testing, place a piece of paper in your test book, and close your test book. We will take a silent three minute stretch break. No talking is allowed.**

After taking a classroom break, ensure students open their braille test books and continue testing where they left off.



**Open your test books and continue testing.**

### Instructions for When 10 Minutes of Section Time Remain

When 10 minutes of Section time remain:




**You have 10 minutes remaining.**

Continue to actively proctor while students are testing.

### Instructions for Ending the Section

When the Section time is finished:

	<p><b>Stop working.</b></p> <p><b>Testing time has now ended. Close your test book.</b></p> <p><b>I will now collect your test materials.</b></p>
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- Collect all braille test materials from the students.
- If testing another Section on the same day, take a break and then read the entire script to begin the next Section. At that time, materials and test books may be redistributed.
- After all testing has ended for the day, return all braille test materials to your STC. Report any missing materials and absent students.
- Report any testing irregularities to your STC.

**Note:** If you are administering more than one Section during the same day, allow students to take a short break (e.g., restroom break) or extended break (e.g., lunch). Braille test books should be collected and secured if the break exceeds 15 minutes. The TA must remain with the braille test books at all times unless they are secured. Once students have returned, read the script to move on to the next Section.

The previous directions should be used for all Sections of the Grade 3 ELA/L Assessment.



## 4.14 Script for Administering English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA/L)


### 4.14.1 Grades 4–8 and Grade 10 ELA/L – All Sections

The administration script under Section 4.14.1 will be used **for all Sections** for the ELA/L Test.


TAs are required to adhere to the scripts provided in this manual for administering the MCAP assessment. Read word-for-word the bold instructions in each SAY box to students. You may not modify or paraphrase the wording in the SAY boxes. Some of the SAY boxes are outlined with a dashed line and should **ONLY** be read aloud if they are applicable to your students. TAs should be familiar with the script before administering the assessment.

Section	Section Testing Time	Required Materials	Start Time	Stop Time
Sections 1–4	<b>70 Minutes per Section</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Braille test books</li> <li>• Braille writing device</li> <li>• Braille paper</li> </ul>		
End of all Sections – Students <b>Stop</b>				

### Instructions for Preparing to Test

	<p><b>Today, you are going to take the English Language Arts/Literacy assessment.</b></p> <p><b>You may not have any unapproved electronic devices at your desk. Making calls, texting, and taking pictures are not allowed. If you have any electronic devices, including cell phones, with you right now, please turn them off and raise your hand. If you are found to have unapproved electronic devices during testing, your test might not be scored.</b></p>
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If a student raises their hand, collect the electronic device (or follow your school/LEA policy) and store it until the Section is complete. Certain electronic devices may be allowed for accommodations purposes only during testing. Contact your STC if you have questions regarding electronic devices.

	<p><b>Please sit quietly while I distribute the test materials.</b></p>
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Distribute scratch paper, braille paper, braille writing device (e.g., braille-writer, braille note-taker, slate and stylus), and approved accessibility features/accommodations tools, if needed, for certain students. Then, distribute the braille test books. Note: Some students may require the use of a signature guide to write their name on the braille test books. In these cases, have signature guides available.

Make sure each student has their name on the test book and answer document. If necessary, assist students with making sure they are using the braille test book that belongs to them.

## Instructions for Administering Each Section

**Say**

Using the Section Tabs on the edge of the page, open your test book to the first page of Section \_\_\_\_ (fill in the appropriate Section number) and follow along while I read the directions. Do NOT turn the page until I tell you to do so.

Today, you will take Section \_\_\_\_ (fill in the appropriate Section number) of the Grade \_\_\_\_ (fill in the appropriate grade level) English Language Arts/Literacy Test.

(Read the appropriate Section for grades 4, 5, and 6 only.)

For Section 1, say: **There will be no more than 17 questions in this Section.**

For Section 2, say: **There will be no more than 10 questions in this Section.**

For Section 3, say: **There will be no more than 10 questions in this Section.**

For Section 4, say: **There will be no more than 14 questions in this Section.**

(Read the appropriate Section for grades 7, 8, and 10 only.)

For Section 1, say: **There will be no more than 15 questions in this Section.**

For Section 2, say: **There will be no more than 9 questions in this Section.**

For Section 3, say: **There will be no more than 10 questions in this Section.**

For Section 4, say: **There will be no more than 14 questions in this Section.**

Read each passage and question. Then, follow the directions to answer each question and, if approved for a recorder, indicate your answer to the person who will record it on the answer document. Otherwise, mark your answers by completely filling in the circles in your answer document. Do not make any pencil marks outside of the circles. If you need to change an answer, be sure to erase your first answer completely.

*(Do not read this paragraph for Section 1. Read this paragraph for Sections 2–4 ONLY.)*

One of the questions may ask you to write a response.


If you do not know the answer to a question, you may go on to the next question. If you finish early, you may review your answers and any questions you did not answer in this Section ONLY. Do not go past the stop sign.


**Say**

This is the end of the directions in your test book.


If you finish early and have completely checked your work in this Section, raise your hand and I will collect your test materials. Once I have collected your test materials, you cannot get them back.

Read only one choice from OPTION A, B, or C below based on your LEA or LEA 24 policy (refer to your STC).

	<b>OPTION A</b> <b>After I have collected your test materials, please sit quietly until the Section has ended.</b>
	<b>OPTION B</b> <b>After I have collected your test materials, I will dismiss you.</b>
	<b>OPTION C</b> <b>After I have collected your test materials, you may read a book or other allowable materials until the Section has ended.</b>

	<b>Do you have any questions?</b> <i>Answer any questions students may have. Repeat any of the instructions, as necessary.</i>
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Braille students will need an audio prompt that should include the Section number, Starting Time and Stopping Time.

	<b>You will have 70 minutes to complete this Section. I will let you know when you have 10 minutes of testing time left.</b> <b>Turn to the next page. You may begin working now.</b>
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Actively proctor while students are testing:

- Redirect students as necessary (Section 4.6).
- Collect all braille test materials as students complete testing.
- If students have questions about an item, tell them, “Do the best you can.”
- If students indicate that a test item seems irregular, refer to Section 4.6.

Ensure students do not move to other Sections.

### Instructions for Taking a Break During Testing

The following are permitted during test administration at the discretion of the TA:

- One stretch break of up to three minutes for the entire classroom during testing for each Section. The stopping time should be adjusted by no more than three minutes if there is a stretch break.
- Individual restroom breaks during testing (do not adjust stop time).

The following security measures must be followed:

- Students must be supervised at all times during breaks.
- Braille test books must be closed or covered.
- Students are not permitted to talk to each other during testing or breaks during testing.
- Students are not permitted to use electronic devices, play games, or engage in activities that may compromise the validity of the test.

If taking a three-minute stand and stretch break during the Section:

<b>Say</b>	<b>Please stop testing, place a piece of paper inside your test book, and close your test book. We will take a three minute break. No talking is allowed.</b>
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After taking a classroom break, ensure students open their braille test books and continue testing where they left off.

<b>Say</b>	<b>Open your test books and continue testing.</b>
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### Instructions for When 10 Minutes of Section Time Remain

When 10 minutes of Section time remain:

<b>Say</b>	<b>You have 10 minutes remaining.</b>
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Continue to actively proctor while students are testing.

### Instructions for Ending the Section

When the Section time is finished:

<b>Say</b>	<b>Stop working. Testing time has now ended. Close your test book. I will now collect your test materials.</b>
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- Collect all braille test materials from the students.
- If testing another Section on the same day, take a break and then read the entire script to begin the next Section. At that time, materials and test books may be redistributed.
- After all testing has ended for the day, return all braille test materials to your STC. Report any missing materials and absent students.
- Report any testing irregularities to your STC.

**Note:** If you are administering more than one Section during the same day, allow students to take a short break (e.g., restroom break) or extended break (e.g., lunch). Braille test books should be collected and secured if the break exceeds 15 minutes. The TA must remain with the braille test books at all times unless they are secured. Once students have returned, read the script to move on to the next Section.

The previous directions should be used for all Sections of Grades 4–8 and Grade 10 of the ELA/L Assessment.



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