New York State Grades 3-8 Testing
Text-to-Speech – Quick Reference Guide

Introduction:

For the Grades 3–8 English Language Arts (ELA), Math and Grades 5 & 8 Science Computer-Based Tests (CBT), the Text-to-Speech (TTS) Player is available for those students who have been identified as having the accommodation of Test Read/Text-to-Speech. Text-to-Speech is an accommodation that must be set in the Nextera Administration system (Nextera Admin) prior to printing login tickets. Additional information on setting accommodations can be found in the School Administrator's Manual.

When Text-to-Speech (TTS) is enabled, the student has the ability, through a TTS player that appears on the computer screen, to have the directions, passages, test questions, reference sheets (Grades 5-8 math only), and answers read by the computer. When selecting the "Play" button, the passages, test questions, and answers are automatically read and highlighted on screen. The test is read by the computer using the device's speaker (headset recommended). It is important that volume is turned up on the student's computer prior to accessing the test. Note that the student has the ability to move the TTS Player around on screen while testing should the default location block the student's view.
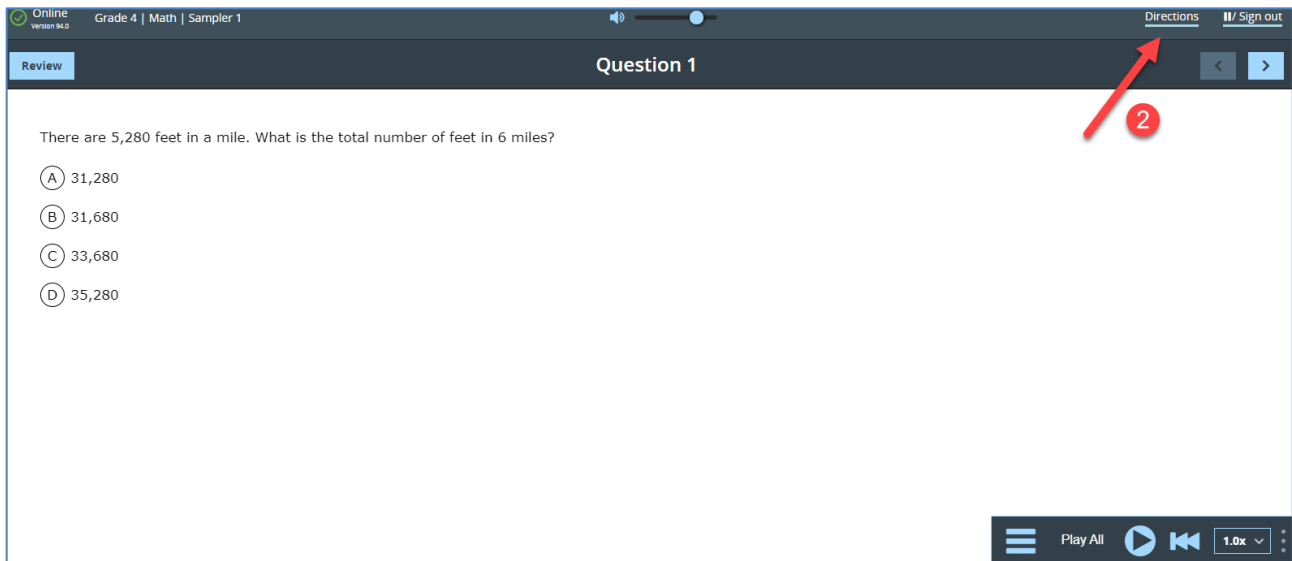
Note: TTS will not read the constructed responses typed by the student, the names of the tools, and other features of the Secure Browser.
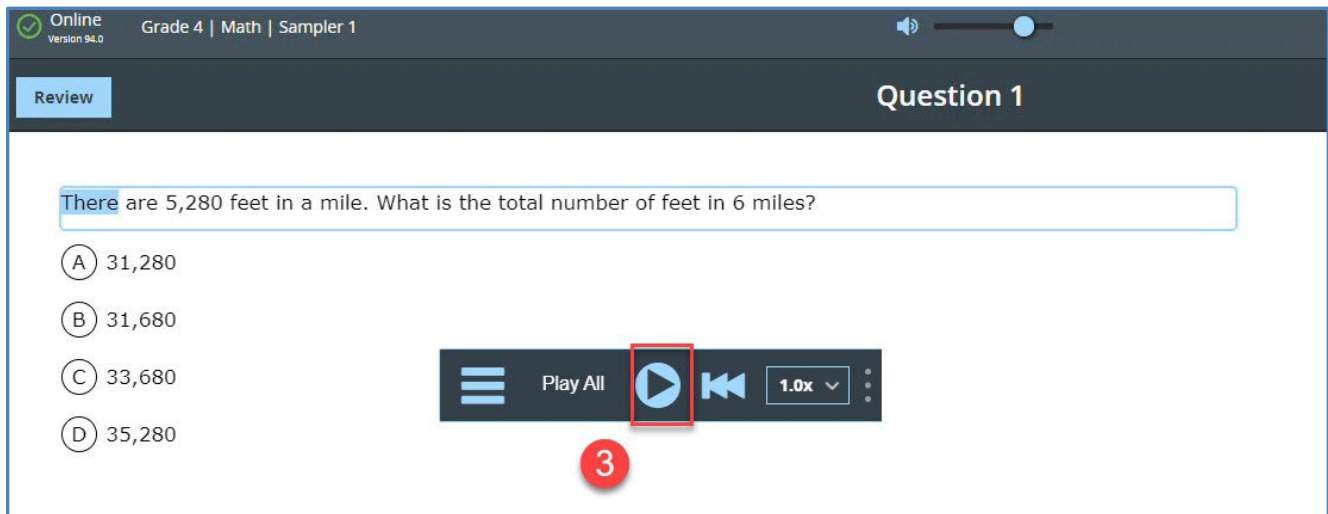
Using Text-to-Speech:

1) Select the **Play Directions** button to start reading and highlighting how to use the test delivery system.
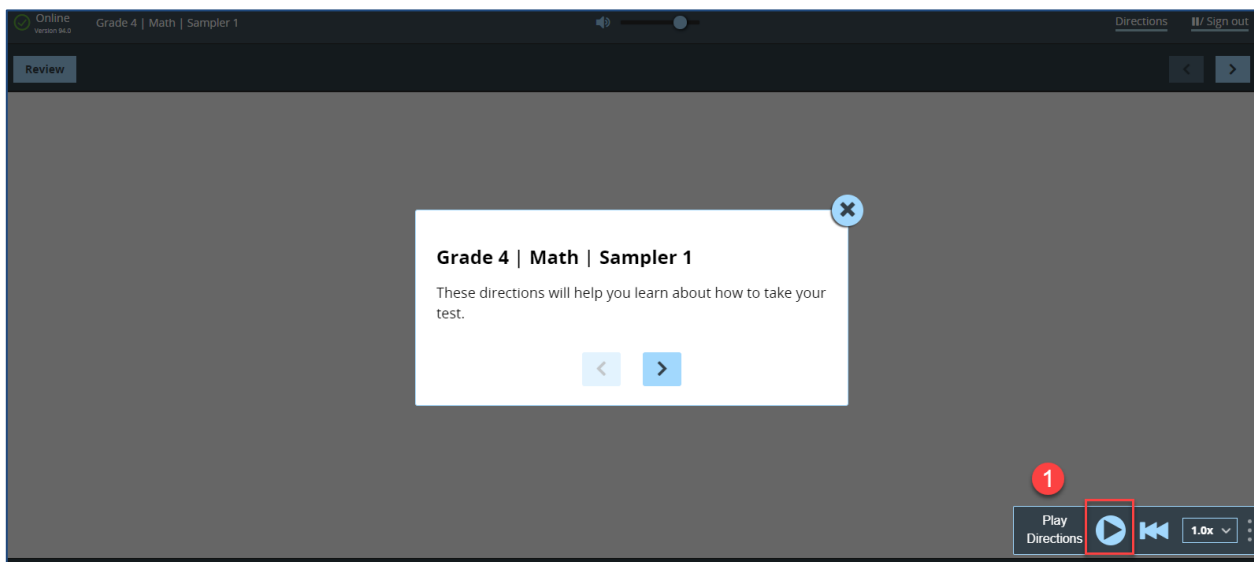
2) If a student needs the directions re-read, select the **Directions** button at the top right.

**3)** Select the **play/pause** button to start and/or stop the reading and highlighting.

4) Select the **play/pause** button to resume the reading and highlighting. Note that the student has the ability to move the TTS Player around on screen while testing should the default location block the student's view.

5) Drag the **volume indicator** to the left to decrease or to the right to increase the volume.

Note: The student cannot control the volume within TTS unless the volume is already turned up on his/her computer.

6) To use Play From Here, right-click the desired starting point in the text (press and hold for iPads).

     a.   Select **Play From Here** to begin playing from the starting point that was selected and play through the end of the passage, question text, reference sheet, or answer text.

     b.   Select **Play All** to play from the beginning of the passage, question text, or answer text through the end of the passage, question text, or answer text.
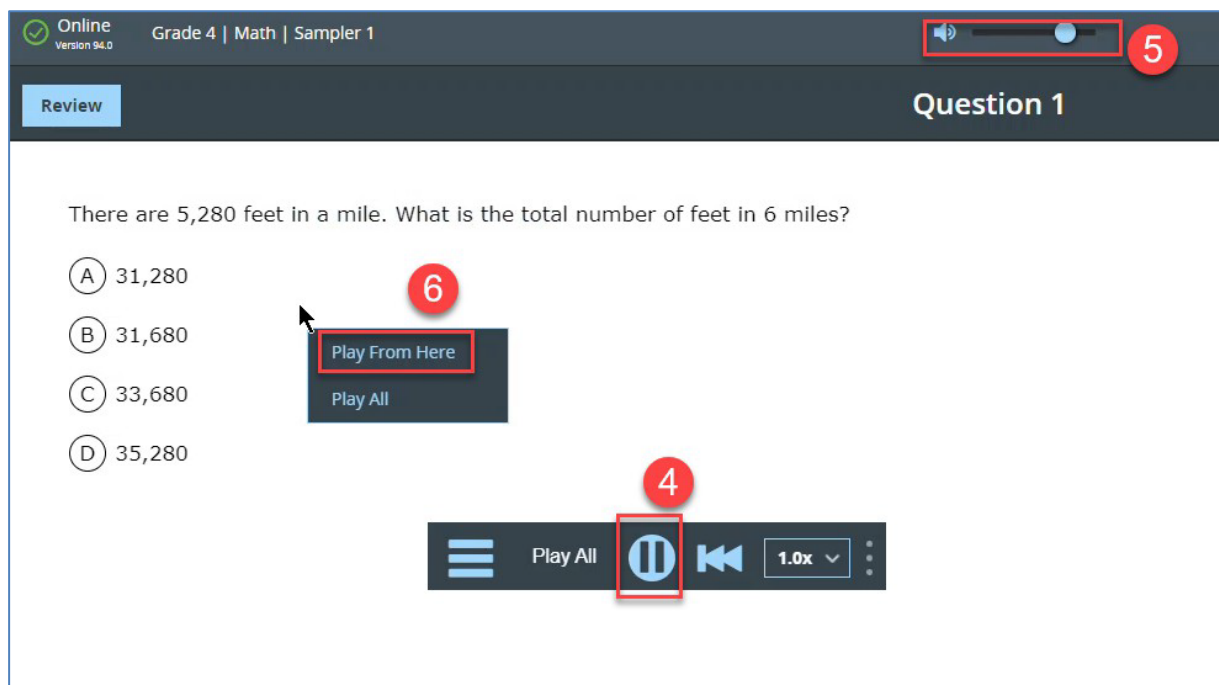
7) Select the three blue lines to access specific sections to read and highlight.

   a. Select **Play All** to play from the beginning of the question through the end.

   b. Select **Play Question** to play only the question text.

   c. Select **Play Answers** to play only the answer text.
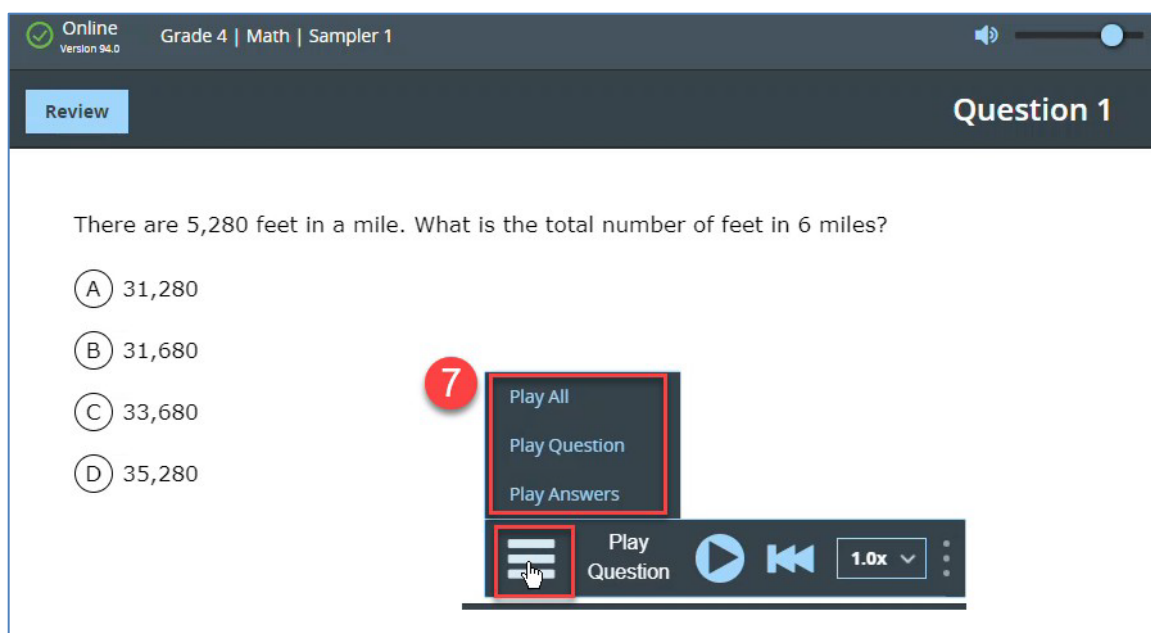
Note: The above image displays controls available for a math test. English and science tests have the additional control of **Play Directions** which will read specific directions related to the question or **Play Passage** which will only read the passage.
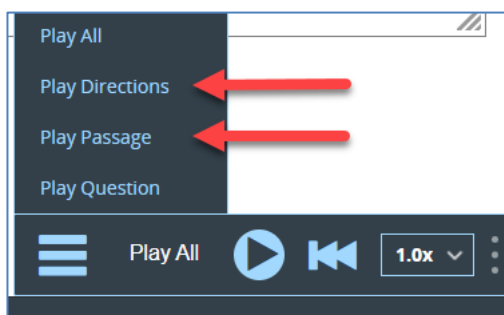
Note: For the Grades 5-8 math tests, when a student selects the reference sheet tool, the TTS player will say "Play Reference"

8) Select the TTS speed menu to change the speed of the reader. The default is 1.0x. If a student changes the speed, the new speed will persist throughout the test until the student changes the speed again.
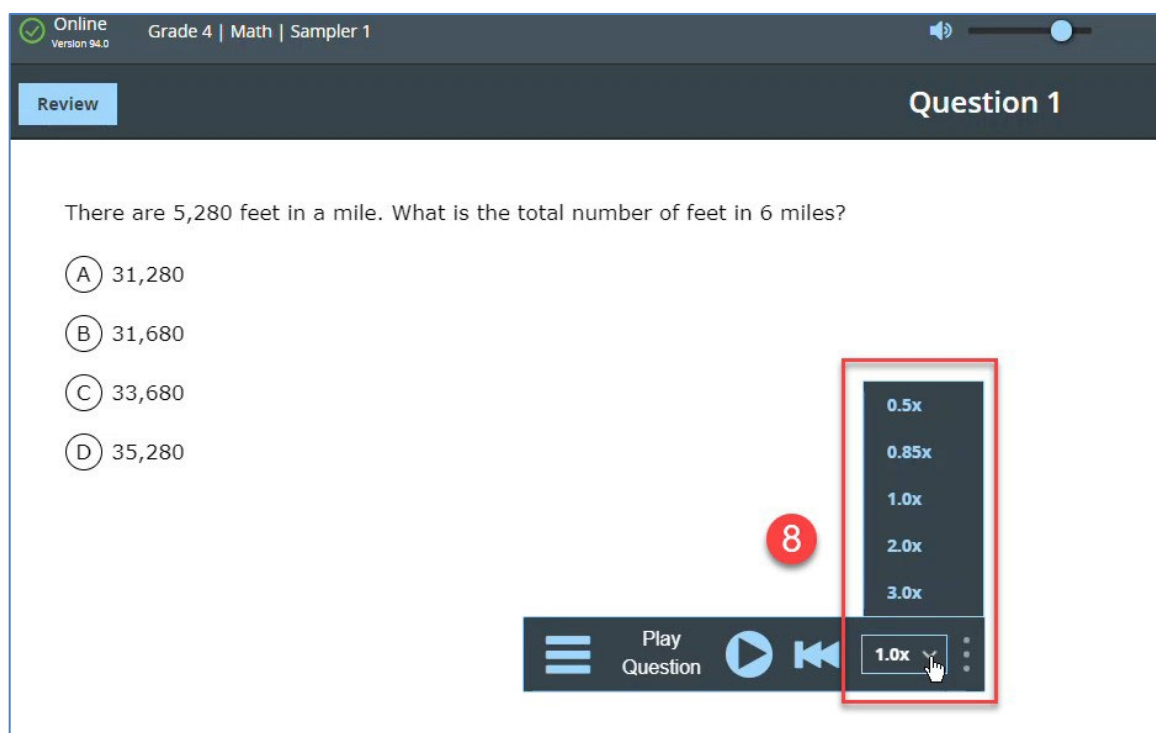
Amazon Polly:

Text-to-Speech uses Amazon Polly and requires an internet connection. While using TTS, if the student's device loses internet connection, the following message will appear on screen:
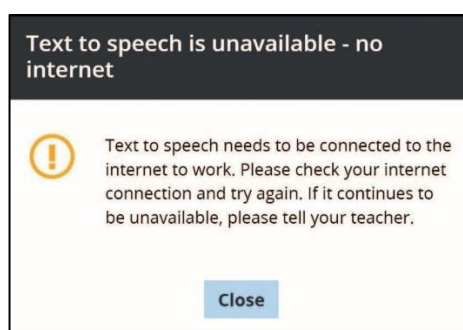
Once the internet connection is restored, the student is able to continue using TTS.

Note: The Text-to-Speech accommodation will function as designed on all iPads with iOS versions 17.3 and above, 18x, and 26.x when released Fall 2025.

![nwea logo]

Customer Support

Customer Support can be reached by:

- **Phone**: 1-866-997-0695

- **Chat**: Available via the Nextera Admin *Help* page

- **Email**: NYTesting@nwea.org

For more information on NWEA's Customer Support team and hours, please visit this article on CBT Support.