



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of Teaching and Learning

SY2023-2024

DCPS Assessment Guide for Families

Introduction

The DCPS Assessment Guide for Families assists families with understanding their student’s assessment results. The graphic below includes a list of common diagnostic/curriculum-based assessments administered to DCPS students. Some students may take additional assessments for specific programs (i.e., Dual Language) or courses.



Elementary School	Middle School	High School
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teaching Strategies GOLD ● DIBELS ● i-Ready Math Diagnostic ● i-Ready Reading Diagnostic ● mClass Lectura** ● STAR** ● ANet ELA and Math 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● i-Ready Math Diagnostic ● Reading Inventory ● HMH Growth Measure*** ● NWEA MAP Science ● SAGE Social Studies * ● STAMP * ● ANet ELA ● IM Unit Assessments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NWEA MAP Math ● Reading Inventory ● HMH Growth Measure*** ● NWEA MAP Science ● SAGE Social Studies* ● STAMP ● ANet ELA ● IM Unit Assessments

- * Assessment administration is optional
- ** Assessments for Dual Language students
- ***Assessment administered at selected sites

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Overview

Assessments within DCPS

DCPS strives to uphold our commitment to students and families by prioritizing high quality instruction. A critical part of the teaching learning cycle, our assessments help educators support students on their path to successful grade-level learning. Strategic use of a suite of Diagnostic assessments, ANet Interim assessments, exit tickets, and other curriculum-based measures help teachers to determine which academic interventions will be most effective.



Assessments are used to measure student academic growth and achievement for a variety of purposes. DCPS has four assessment categories: Diagnostic, Curriculum-based, Summative, and College & Career. This guide provides an overview of the uses of diagnostic and curriculum-based assessments.

Diagnostic Assessments are administered three times throughout the school year: Beginning of the Year (BOY), Middle of the Year (MOY), and End of the Year (EOY). These assessments give students the opportunity to demonstrate growth on aligned standards.

Curriculum Based Assessments are administered multiple times throughout the school year to give instructors a constant pulse on student learning. Both ANet and Required Curricular Tasks (RCTs) administration windows are aligned to the pacing of the course.

Teachers may also utilize other formative assessment measures to collect student academic data on a consistent basis. Some options include anecdotes, exit tickets, running records, classroom polls, learning apps, and strategic questioning.

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Diagnostic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diagnostic assessments aligned to content specific standards and used to measure student performance and growth• Offered throughout the year (BOY/MOY/EOY) to provide teachers with information to adjust and enhance instruction• Includes: DIBELS, Reading Inventory, i-Ready Reading, i-Ready Math, mCLASS Lectura, MAP Science, MAP Math, Phonics Inventory, HMH Growth Measure Reading, SAGE, and STAMP
Curriculum Based	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Standards aligned assessments that are embedded within the scope and sequence of the course (IM Unit Assessments, ANet, RCTs)• ANet Interim Assessments are end of term benchmark assessments aligned to the pacing/content of the curriculum and administered via Clever• Required Curricular Tasks (RCTs) are standards-aligned, formative experiences within the DCPS curriculum. They are mostly designed within MasteryConnect and administered via Canvas
Summative	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administered annually to measure student mastery/progress• State- and federally-mandated assessments managed by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE)• Includes PARCC, DC Science, MSA, DLM, ACCESS, Alternate ACCESS, NAEP and the Health and PE Assessment
College and Career	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designed to prepare students for college admissions and career readiness• Includes Advanced Placement, SAT/PSAT, and International Baccalaureate assessments

DCPS Diagnostic Assessments

These assessments are administered at the beginning, middle, and end of each year. Diagnostic assessments are used to measure student proficiency along the continuum of grade level expectations. These assessments provide valuable information for teachers identifying student strengths, skill gaps, and current performance.

They also support teachers in planning instruction that is tailored to student needs. Additional information for diagnostic usage can be found under individual assessments and programs covered in this document.

DCPS Curriculum Based Assessments

Teachers naturally adapt and adjust the curriculum based on student need. Our curriculum-based assessments ensure equitable experiences across our districts. These assessments are aligned to the course specific standards. ANet assessments are administered closer to the end of the Term. Required Curricular Tasks (RCTs) are administered throughout the school year via the Mastery Connect platform.

Resources by Assessment

Teaching Strategies GOLD

The Teaching Strategies GOLD Assessment is used in pre-kindergarten classrooms to assess student progress throughout the school year. It blends ongoing, authentic teacher observations across six areas of development and learning, including literacy and numeracy objectives. Early Childhood Education teachers collect documentation on children’s social emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, and math abilities throughout the school year and assign ratings at the end of the fall, winter, and spring checkpoints to track children’s progress across the year.

Who takes the assessment?	Students in Pre-K3 and Pre-K4
When do they take it?	Student results are entered three times per school year

Helpful Resources for Families

Where can I find help with understanding my student’s results?	Families can access resources through TeachingStrategies.com to learn ways to support learning at home.
Which student reports/additional information can I expect to receive?	The teacher will provide information about the three check points along with a report of the student’s current level and next steps for supporting student growth.
What are some questions I should ask when they receive student results?	<p><i>How can I support my child at home?</i></p> <p><i>How do my student’s results match up with other things you’ve noticed?</i></p> <p><i>Is my child going to be ready for kindergarten?</i></p>



DIBELS 8

DIBELS 8 (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills, 8th Edition) measures student foundational reading skills. Teachers use this assessment at the beginning of the year (BOY), middle of the year (MOY), and end of the year (EOY). DIBELS uses one-minute fluency measures to assess student development in key sub-skills closely correlated to fluent grade level reading.

Who takes the assessment?	Students in grades K-2
When do they take it?	Three times throughout the school year
How long to complete the assessment?	Approximately 10 minutes

Helpful Resources for Families

Where can I find help with understanding my student’s results?	<p>mCLASS Home Connect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides resources for families to practice and reinforce important literacy skills with their children. This resource is available in both English and Spanish. <p>Click here to access additional resources.</p>
Which student reports/additional information can I expect to receive?	Teachers should share the Home Connect Letter . This is a personalized report explaining the DIBELS 8 assessment, your student’s various scores, and what sort of progress you should expect to see throughout the year.
What are some questions I should ask when they receive student results?	<p><i>How can I support my child while we read together?</i></p> <p><i>How do my student’s results match up with other things you’ve noticed?</i></p> <p><i>What types of books should my child read at home?</i></p> <p><i>What specific skills are you working on in the classroom?</i></p>



mClass: Lectura Spanish Reading Assessment

The mClass: Lectura Spanish Reading Assessment is an assessment for foundational literacy in Spanish for DCPS students in grades K-2 in Dual Language programs. It is aligned with the English foundational literacy assessment called DIBELS. Students are assessed at the beginning, middle, and end of year, and participate in progress monitoring as needed in between.

Who takes the assessment?	Dual language students in grades K-2
When do they take it?	Three times throughout the school year in Dual Language programs
How long to complete the assessment?	Approximately 10 minutes

Helpful Resources for Families

Where can I find help with understanding my student's results?	Information about the mClass Lectura assessment can be found here .
Which student reports/additional information can I expect to receive?	Families should expect to receive information from the child's teacher that includes this assessment as one measure of the student's literacy skills in Spanish. These reports will show results of this assessment alongside the equivalent assessment in English.
What are some questions I should ask when they receive student results?	<p><i>How do my student's results match up with other things you've noticed, including his or her English literacy skills?</i></p> <p><i>Is my child at or above proficiency for their grade?</i></p> <p><i>How can I support my child's Spanish literacy skills at home to help them continue to make progress?</i></p>

i-Ready Reading and Math Diagnostic

The **i-Ready Reading Diagnostic** Assessment provides comprehensive insight into student learning across multiple domains in reading. The intent of the assessment is to assist teachers with identifying student areas of strength, the specific skills each student needs to develop, and measure academic growth throughout the school year.

Who takes the assessment?	Students in grades K- 5
When do they take it?	Three times throughout the school year
How long to complete the assessment?	Approximately 45-60 minutes

The **i-Ready Math Diagnostic** Assessment provides comprehensive insight into student learning across multiple domains in mathematics. The intent of the assessment is to assist teachers with identifying student areas of strength, the specific skills each student needs to develop, and measure academic growth throughout the school year.

Who takes the assessment?	Students in grades K-8
When do they take it?	Three times throughout the school year
How long to complete the assessment?	Approximately 45-60 minutes

Helpful Resources for Families

Where can I find help with understanding my student’s results?	i-Ready Family Center Please note the availability to switch the language for the i-Ready Family Center resources by using the drop-down in the upper right-hand corner of the page.
Which student reports/additional information can I expect to receive?	Family Guides: English Spanish Additional Language Translations Video: Introduction to <i>i-Ready</i> for Families: English Spanish

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<p>What are some questions I should ask when they receive student results?</p>	<p><i>How can I support my child while we read together?</i></p> <p><i>How do my student's results match up with other things you've noticed?</i></p> <p><i>What types of books should my child read at home?</i></p> <p><i>What specific skills are you working on in the classroom?</i></p> <p><i>What resources are offered in the classroom?</i></p> <p><i>What are some activities my child can do that support math reasoning through play? Or at home?</i></p>
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Reading Inventory

The **Reading Inventory (RI)** is an online interactive assessment of reading comprehension used to track student literacy development beyond foundational literacy stages. The Reading Inventory generates reports based on the Lexile Framework for Reading. Upon completing the assessment, students receive Lexile scores which are used to determine the range of texts in which they are most likely to succeed.

Who takes the assessment?	Students in grades 6- 12
When do they take it?	Three times throughout the school year
How long to complete the assessment?	20- 40 minutes per session

Helpful Resources for Families

Where can I find help with understanding my student’s results?	The Reading Inventory for Students and Families Student Tutorial
Which student reports/additional information can I expect to receive?	Families can expect to receive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student’s Lexile score • Parent Letters after every administration • Individualized Recommended Reading Report
What are some questions I should ask when they receive student results?	<p><i>How can I support my child while they are reading?</i></p> <p><i>What types of books should my child read at home?</i></p> <p><i>What are some activities that we can engage in around the city to support authentic literacy growth?</i></p>

HMH Reading Growth Measure Diagnostic Assessment



Overview

Who takes the assessment?	Students in grades 6- 12.
When do they take it?	Required administration three times throughout the school year.
How long to complete the assessment?	Approximately 30-45 minutes

Helpful Resources for Families

Where can I find help with understanding my student’s results?	Contact your student’s teacher for additional resources.
Which student reports/additional information can I expect to receive?	<p>Families can expect to receive a parent/caregiver letter from your child’s teacher. This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your student’s scaled score <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Primary score showing how student performed on Growth Measure. Ranges from G01- G99 ○ For example, a grade 4 test has a scaled score range from 401- 499 • Performance level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An at-a-glance view of student comprehension of grade level content • Grade- level equivalence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Indicates student readiness for their current year’s content. • Lexile interval <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A grade-agnostic score that matches student performance to appropriate texts.
What are some questions I should ask when they receive student results?	<p><i>How can I support my child while they are reading?</i></p> <p><i>What types of books should my child read at home?</i></p> <p><i>What are some activities that we can engage in around the city to support authentic literacy growth?</i></p>

Phonics Inventory

Phonics Inventory provides a reliable tool for pinpointing the exact nature of students' intervention needs. It uses a foundational reading assessment designed to measure fluency of phonological decoding and sight word recognition in older students who are struggling with grade level literacy expectations.

Who takes the assessment?	Students in grades 6-12 if their Reading Inventory score is less than 600.
When do they take it?	Four times throughout the school year for students scoring below 600L on the Reading Inventory (RI) assessment
How long to complete the assessment?	Less than 20 minutes

Helpful Resources for Families

Where can I find help with understanding my student's results?	Parent letters are generated with completion of the assessments.
Which student reports/additional information can I expect to receive?	Families can expect to receive letters from teachers with a breakdown of the PI assessment, their child's score, how they plan to adjust personalized instruction to the child's needs, and how families can support reading development at home.
What are some questions I should ask when they receive student results?	<p><i>How do my student's results match up with other things you've noticed?</i></p> <p><i>How can I best support my child's reading development at home?</i></p> <p><i>What tools are being used in the classroom to improve my child's foundational reading skills?</i></p>



NWEA MAP Math and Science

The Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP®) **Mathematics Content Assessments** and **Science Growth Assessments** measure growth and projects proficiency on year-end tests. The MAP assessment helps teachers plan instruction to meet the needs of your student.

Who takes the assessment?	Students enrolled in Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra II Students in grades 6-8 Science courses. Students enrolled in Biology
When do they take it?	Three times throughout the school year
How long to complete the assessment?	Approximately 50-60 minutes

Helpful Resources for Families

Where can I find help with understanding my student’s results?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWEA Family Toolkit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is MAP Growth ○ Michael’s Story ○ Lyla’s Story ○ Meet the Family Report ○ The Family Guide to MAP Growth
Which student reports/additional information can I expect to receive?	Families may request to review the student’s report with their teacher.
What are some questions I should ask when they receive student results?	<p><i>How do my student’s results match up with other things you’ve noticed?</i></p> <p><i>What activities can I do around the city or at home to reinforce the skills taught in the course?</i></p>



SAGE

The SAGE (Social Studies Assessment of Growth and Excellence) is an online pre- and post- test developed in partnership between DCPS teachers and the Social Studies team. Question items on the SAGE blend prioritize social studies content with literacy, historical and geographic thinking, and inquiry.

Who takes the assessment?	Students enrolled in 6th-9th grade Social Studies courses (optional).
When do they take it?	Two times throughout the school year
How long to complete the assessment?	Approximately 60-120 minutes

Helpful Resources for Families

Where can I find help with understanding my student's results?	Contact your student's teacher for score reports.
Which student reports/additional information can I expect to receive?	Families should contact their student's teacher for additional information.
What are some questions I should ask when they receive student results?	<p><i>What are the dates of the SAGE pre-test and post-test?</i></p> <p><i>How did my student's score compare to the rest of the district?</i></p> <p><i>What is my student's post-test goal?</i></p>



STAMP

The Standards-Based Measurement of Proficiency (STAMP) is an internationally recognized online test that assesses language proficiency in Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, French, Italian, or Spanish across four language skills: listening, reading, speaking, and writing. For eighth grade students, STAMP results will be used to place students in appropriate World Language courses in high school. The ACTFL Latin Interpretive Reading Assessment (ALIRA) is administered in all grade 8 and level II Latin courses.

Who takes the assessment?	Students enrolled in 8 th grade or a Level II language course.
When do they take it?	At the end of the school year.
How long to complete the assessment?	Approximately 120 minutes

Helpful Resources for Families

Where can I find help with understanding my student’s results?	Student scores may be interpreted using the STAMP 4s Score Guide available here .
Which student reports/additional information can I expect to receive?	Individual student scores are available in ASPEN. School administrators receive a breakdown of student performance by language within each school.
What are some questions I should ask when they receive student results?	<i>At the beginning of the course, what was my student’s proficiency level?</i> <i>What is the expected proficiency level of the course?</i> <i>What should my student focus on to continue learning the language?</i>

STAR Spanish Reading Assessment

The Star Spanish Reading Assessment is a Spanish reading assessment for DCPS students in grades 2-12 in Dual Language programs. The Star Spanish Early Literacy assessment is a similar assessment for students in K-1 in Dual Language.

Who takes the assessment?	Dual language students in grades K-12
When do they take it?	Three times throughout the school year
How long to complete the assessment?	Approximately 20-30 minutes

Helpful Resources for Families

Where can I find help with understanding my student's results?	FAQ page on Renaissance website can be found here .
Which student reports/additional information can I expect to receive?	Families should expect to receive information from the child's teacher that includes this assessment as one measure of the student's literacy skills in Spanish
What are some questions I should ask when they receive student results?	<p><i>How do my student's results match up with other things you've noticed?</i></p> <p><i>Is my child at or above proficiency for their grade?</i></p> <p><i>How can I support my child's Spanish literacy skills at home to help them continue to make progress?</i></p>

ANet ELA and Math Interim Assessments

The **ANet ELA Interim Assessment** measures students’ progress towards meeting Common Core State Standards in English/Language Arts. The ANet interim assessments are aligned with the DCPS curriculum and are on-par with the level of rigor in PARCC assessments.

Who takes the assessment?	Students in grades 3-10
When do they take it?	Three times throughout the school year (High School Students will only take two assessments).
How long to complete the assessment?	Approximately 90 minutes

The **ANet Math Interim Assessment** measures student understanding of the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics. Teachers use ANet interim assessments to gauge student progress and inform instruction throughout the year.

Who takes the assessment?	Students in grades 3-5
When do they take it?	Students take the assessment three times throughout the school year (High School Students will only take two assessments).
How long to complete the assessment?	Approximately 60-90 minutes

Helpful Resources for Families

Where can I find help with understanding my student’s results?	Please contact your student’s teacher.
Which student reports/additional information can I expect to receive?	You can expect to discuss details of the ANet assessment and your student’s results during parent-teacher conferences. Teachers will also send home Take Home Reports and At Home Assessment Practice resources.
What are some questions I should ask when I receive student results?	<i>How do my student’s results match up with other things you’ve noticed? How can I support my child at home?</i> <i>Is my child receiving intervention support?</i>