The Teachers’ Quick Reference Guide to Assessment

Assessment information for teachers in grades K – 12.
Not everything you need to know...
Just a quick overview of important information about testing.
The Teachers’ Quick Reference Guide to Assessment

The *Teachers’ Quick Reference Guide to Assessment* is designed to provide an overview of assessments for each grade. The assessments presented in this guide are the ONLY REQUIRED assessments. When federal, state, and district mandates are coupled with school and program choices it is hard to separate the options from mandates. Tests have their own rules and procedures that can become a sea of confusion.

Our goal with the *Quick Reference Guide* is to bring some sanity to the assessment program and some sanity to the lives of teachers and students.

*The Guide* provides a brief reference to the most frequently asked questions and issues that created the most confusion and directs you to more comprehensive Documents. *The Guide* is not designed to be a comprehensive display of all testing rules and options.

The concept for this guide came from the Albuquerque Federation of Teachers staff and a group of teachers who spent an evening describing how to bring this to reality. A special thanks is due to these individuals for their contributions.
Terms of Assessment

Many different terms are used to describe assessments. These terms overlap, the same terms mean different things to different people or different terms mean the same thing to different people. This short definition section will help to establish the *APS Terms of Assessment* that will apply to all of our assessments and discussions about assessments.

**Assessment:** The process of quantifying, describing, or gathering information about performance.

**Benchmark:** A test that monitors achievement to date, measuring a student’s mastery against a marker or expectation for that point in time. **Examples:** District Benchmark Assessment, KDPR, DRA2

**Diagnostic:** Assessments that precede instruction, checks students’ prior knowledge and identifies misconceptions, interests, and learning style preferences. Provide information to assist planning and guide differentiated instruction. **Examples:** Pretests, student survey, skills check, K-W-L

**Formative:** On-going assessments provide information to guide teaching for improving learning and performance. **Examples:** Homework, oral questioning, observation, draft work, dress rehearsal, portfolio review

**Performance Assessment:** Direct observation of student performance or student work and professional judgment of the quality of that performance. Good-quality performance assessment has pre-established performance criteria.

**Proficiency:** Having or demonstrating a high degree of knowledge or skill in a particular area that meets a defined requirement or criteria.
**Progress Monitoring:** Frequent, short assessments to ensure a student has mastered the just taught material. 
**Examples:** DRA2 Word Analysis

**Reliability:** The degree to which the results of an assessment are dependable and yield consistent results.

**Screening:** A quick assessment designed to predict students’ future mastery; identifies students at risk for failure in a particular content area. **Example:** DIBELS

**Summative:** Culminating assessments are conducted at the end of a unit, course or grade level to determine the degree of mastery or proficiency with strong test reliability to identified achievement targets. Summative assessments are evaluative in nature resulting in a score, a grade or ranking. **Examples:** Test, final exam, culminating project or performance, work portfolio and the State Standards-based Assessment

**Validity:** Refers to whether or not an assessment measures what it was intended to measure and nothing more.
APS Comprehensive Assessment System

**Required National Testing**
- NAEP: National Assessment of Educational Progress
- Confirmatory Assessment for State Performance
- Provides accountability at the State level

**State Mandated Assessments**
- Confirmatory Assessment for the District Assessments
- Provides Accountability for the APS District

**District Mandated Assessments**
- Provides School & Classroom Accountability
- Models Quality Instructional Practices
- Drives Professional Development
- Supports Instructional Program Planning
- Supports the Development of a Performance Index

**Classroom Assessments**
- Guides Instructional Planning for the Individual Students
- Ensures Teachers have Assessment Information that Guides Everyday Instructional Decision Making
- Standards-Based Progress Reports Provides Common Language for Communicating with Parents

**STANDARDS**

5 - CA/Teachers’ Quick Reference Guide to Assessment/Revised 11/09
## Assessment Summary

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Short Cycle Assessment

Benchmark Assessment

Curriculum Maps

Core Reading Program Assessments
School Selected Common Assessments
Hampton Brown Reading
Core Math

Benchmark Assessment

APS Math Task Bank
Algebra I Performance Assessments
CMP Math

Benchmark Assessment

Running Record
Fundations

DRA
Word Analysis
Diagnostic Assessments

Curriculum Based Measures

Core Reading
Harcourt
Houghton/Mifflin
Scott Foresman
Open Court
McMillan McGraw

Core Math
Everyday Math
Investigations
Connected Math
Prentice Hall
Kindergarten Assessments

State Mandated Assessment

Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills
DIBELS

State mandated for full day kindergarten.

- Specific reading skills
  - Fall: ISF, LNF
  - Winter: ISF, LNF, PSF, NWF
  - Spring: LNF, PSF, NWF

USES
- State full day Kindergarten evaluation
- Screening tool to predict reading success

ACCOMMODATIONS
- Large print, change pictures, or pictures in color
- Place keeper (e.g., ruler)
- Font may be changed
- Pre-teach unfamiliar vocabulary

REPORT
- DIBELS
- Data Director

District Required Assessment

Kindergarten Developmental Progress Record
KDPR

State requires districts to select a short cycle assessment for all kindergarten classes.

- Reading and Math
  - Fall, Winter and Spring administration
- Available in Spanish

USES
- Guide student instructional planning
- Report progress to parents

ACCOMMODATIONS
- Adjust to match student’s instructional program and language of instruction.

REPORT
- RDA Website: KDPR Component
# First and Second Grade Assessments

## District Required Assessments

### Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA2/EDL)

State requires districts to select a short cycle assessment for all first and second grade classes in reading.

- **Reading and Reading Fluency**
  - Fall, Winter and Spring administration
- **Available in Spanish (EDL)**

#### USES

- Short Cycle Assessment
- Guides instructional decision making for individual students in reading
- Contains Word Analysis section for a more comprehensive assessment of student’s reading
- Establishes eligibility for Academic Improvement Plan

#### ACCOMMODATIONS

- Some accommodations can be provided for the DRA2; consult the teacher’s manual

#### REPORT

- RDA Website: DRA2 Component

### District Benchmark Assessments (DBA) (Reading/Math)

State requires districts to select a short cycle assessment for all first and second grade classes in reading and math.

- **Reading and Mathematics**
  - Fall, Winter and Spring administration
- **Available in Spanish for Mathematics**

#### USES

- Short Cycle Assessment
- Guides instructional decision making for individual students in math
- Establishes eligibility for Academic Improvement Plan

#### ACCOMMODATIONS

- Teachers may read the math portions of the assessment to students, provide extra time,

#### REPORT

- Data Director
Third Grade Assessments
State Mandated Assessments

**NM Standards Based Assessment SBA**
State mandated and No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation requires testing in grade 3 in Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Writing.

- Multiple choice and short answer items
- Available in Spanish
- Sample items for practice are available at [www.ped.state.nm.us](http://www.ped.state.nm.us)
- Administration window is in the spring of each school year

**USES**
- Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)
- Program improvement

**ACCOMMODATIONS**
- Allowable accommodations are listed in the NM Public Education Guidelines for test administration at [www.ped.state.nm.us](http://www.ped.state.nm.us)
- Special education, English language learners, and ALL students may have all accommodations listed in the guide
  - Any students who have had instructional accommodations for three months prior to testing may receive approved accommodations on the SBA.

**REPORT**
- Provided by PED vendor in the fall after testing.

**NM English Language Proficiency Assessment NMELPA**
Federally and State mandated for all students who are identified as PHLOTE (Primary Home Language Other than English) must be assessed for English Proficiency.

- Students new to the District will be assessed with the NMELPA Placement assessment.
- If the student is identified as an English language learner (ELL) s/he must be assessed with the NMELPA during the appropriate window.

**USES**
- Determine the appropriate program placement for ELL students

**ACCOMMODATIONS**
- Consult the administration manual for appropriate accommodations.
Third Grade Assessments
District Assessments

**Developmental Reading Assessment**
**DRA2/EDL**

State requires districts to select a short cycle assessment for all third grade classes in reading.

- Reading and Reading Fluency
  - Fall, Winter and Spring administration
- Available in Spanish (EDL)

**USES**
- Short Cycle Assessment
- Guides instructional decision making for individual students in reading
- Establishes eligibility for Academic Improvement Plan

**ACCOMMODATIONS**
- Some accommodations can be provided for the DRA2; consult the teacher’s manual

**REPORT**
- RDA Website: DRA2 Component

**NOTE**
At third grade school staffs have a choice of administering DRA2 or ES SCA in reading.

**District Benchmark Assessments**
**Reading/Math**

State requires districts to select a short cycle assessment for all third grade classes in reading and math.

- Reading and Mathematics
  - Fall, Winter and Spring administration
- Available in Spanish for Mathematics

**USES**
- Identifies students’ progress towards standards
- Provides information for instructional decision making
- Establishes eligibility for Academic Improvement Plan

**ACCOMMODATIONS**
- Teachers may read the math portions of the assessment to students
- Provide translation when necessary
- Out of level testing: Administering a lower level of the test if the student can not read at grade level.

**REPORT**
- Data Director
Fourth through Eighth Grade Assessments
State Mandated Assessments

Standards Based Assessment SBA

State mandated and No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation requires testing in grade 4 - 8 in Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Writing.

- Multiple choice and short answer items
- Available in Spanish
- Sample items for practice are available at www.ped.state.nm.us
- Administration window is in the spring of each school year

USES
- Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)
- Program improvement

ACCOMMODATIONS
- Allowable accommodations are listed in the NM Public Education Guidelines for test administration at www.ped.state.nm.us
- Special education, English language learners, and ALL students may have all accommodations listed in the guide
  - Any students who have had instructional accommodations for three months prior to testing may receive approved accommodations on the SBA.

REPORT
- Provided by Pearson in the fall after testing.

NM English Language Proficiency Assessment NMELPA

Federally and State mandated for all students who are identified as PHLOTE (Primary Home Language Other than English) must be assessed for English Proficiency.

- Students new to the District will be assessed with the NMELPA Placement assessment.
- If the student is identified as an English language learner (ELL) s/he must be assessed with the NMELPA during the appropriate window.

USES
- Determine the appropriate program placement for ELL students

ACCOMMODATIONS
- Consult the administration manual for appropriate accommodations.
Fourth through Eighth Grade Assessments
District Required Assessments

District Benchmark Assessment (DBA) Reading/Math
Elementary and Middle School

State requires districts to select a short cycle assessment for all fourth through eighth grade classes in reading and math.

- Reading and Mathematics
  - Fall, Winter and Spring administration
- Available in Spanish for Mathematics

USES
- Short Cycle Assessment
- Identifies students’ progress towards standards
- Provides information for instructional decision making
- Establishes eligibility for Academic Improvement Plan

ACCOMMODATIONS
- Teachers may read the math portions of the assessment to students
- Provide translation when necessary
- Out of level testing: Administering a lower level of the test if the student can not read at grade level.

REPORT
- Data Director
Ninth through Twelfth Grade Assessments
State Mandated Assessments

NM Standards Based Assessment SBA

State mandated and No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation requires testing in grade 11 in Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and Writing.

- Multiple choice and short answer items
- Sample items for practice are available at www.ped.state.nm.us
- Administration window is in the spring of each school year

USES
- Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)
- Program improvement

ACCOMMODATIONS
- Allowable accommodations are listed in the NM Public Education Guidelines for test administration at www.ped.state.nm.us
- Special education, English language learners, and ALL students may have all accommodations listed in the guide
  - Any students who have had instructional accommodations for three months prior to testing may receive approved accommodations on the SBA.

REPORT
- Provided by Pearson in the fall after testing.

NM High School Competency Exam HSCE

State mandated as the high school exit exam.

- Eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, and make up
- Available in Spanish
- May repeat any failed subtest yearly up to five years past high school

USES
- High School exit exam

ACCOMMODATIONS
- Allowable accommodations are listed in the NM Public Education Guidelines for test administration at www.ped.state.nm.us
- Special education, English language learners, and ALL student may have all accommodations listed in the guide
  - Any students who have had instructional accommodations for three months prior to testing may receive approved accommodations on the HSCE.
Ninth through Twelfth Grade Assessments
State Mandated Assessments

NM English Language Proficiency Assessment NMELPA

Federally and State mandated for all students who are identified as PHLOTE (Primary Home Language Other than English) must be assessed for English Proficiency.

- Students new to the District will be assessed with the NMELPA Placement assessment.
- If the student is identified as an English language learner (ELL) s/he must be assessed with the NMELPA during the appropriate window.

USES
- Determine the appropriate program placement for ELL students

ACCOMMODATIONS
- Consult the administration manual for appropriate accommodations.
Ninth through Eleventh Grade Assessments
District Required Assessments

District Benchmark Assessment (DBA)

State requires districts to select a short cycle assessment for all ninth through eleventh grade classes in reading/language arts and math.

- Math
  - Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II
- English Language Arts
  - English 9, 10 & 11

- Fall, Winter and Spring administration
- Available in Spanish for Mathematics

USES
- Short Cycle Assessment
- Identifies students’ progress towards standards
- Provides information for instructional decision making

ACCOMMODATIONS
- Teachers may read the math portions of the assessment to students
- Provide translation when necessary
- Out of level testing: Administering a lower level of the test if the student can not read at grade level.

REPORT
- Data Director
A Word about Test Preparation…

The best test prep is teaching to the standards and mastering the content! But, all students benefit from learning how to navigate a test. Practice bubbling, recognizing the ‘go right on’ and ‘Stop’ notices, and just figuring out how to understand the question being asked is a good practice for all students. Test prep of this nature need only be done a few weeks before testing for approximately 10 – 15 minutes per day and it should be incorporated in the instructional program.

For More Information

For More Information go to: www.rda.aps.edu
• For a comprehensive testing calendar go to the RDA website
• For more information about Academic Improvement Plans go to the RDA website & click on AIP guide

For questions or more information:
• Call 872-6870

Final Words about Assessment…