



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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A Balanced Assessment System

A balanced assessment system is a core component of a well-rounded instructional program that serves all students. A balanced assessment system effectively measures the depth and breadth of student learning and monitors student progress towards college and career readiness. It also produces actionable data that informs planning for instruction, academic supports, and resource allocation at all levels. To meet these goals, a balanced assessment system must include multiple measures and be responsive to the needs of all students.

Key to designing a balanced assessment system that supports the instructional core is the use of multiple measures. A single style of assessment or a single point in time measure is insufficient to truly gauge the depth and breadth of student understanding. A complete overview of D97 common assessments is presented on the following pages, in both a table and frequency view. Note that classroom-level formative assessments are occurring all the time in this model. Those assessments can include in-the-moment checks for understanding, exit tickets, etc. The bulk of assessments in a balanced assessment are formative, whether they are at the classroom or team level. The final page of this document provides more detail about each type of assessment in our Common Assessment Calendar.

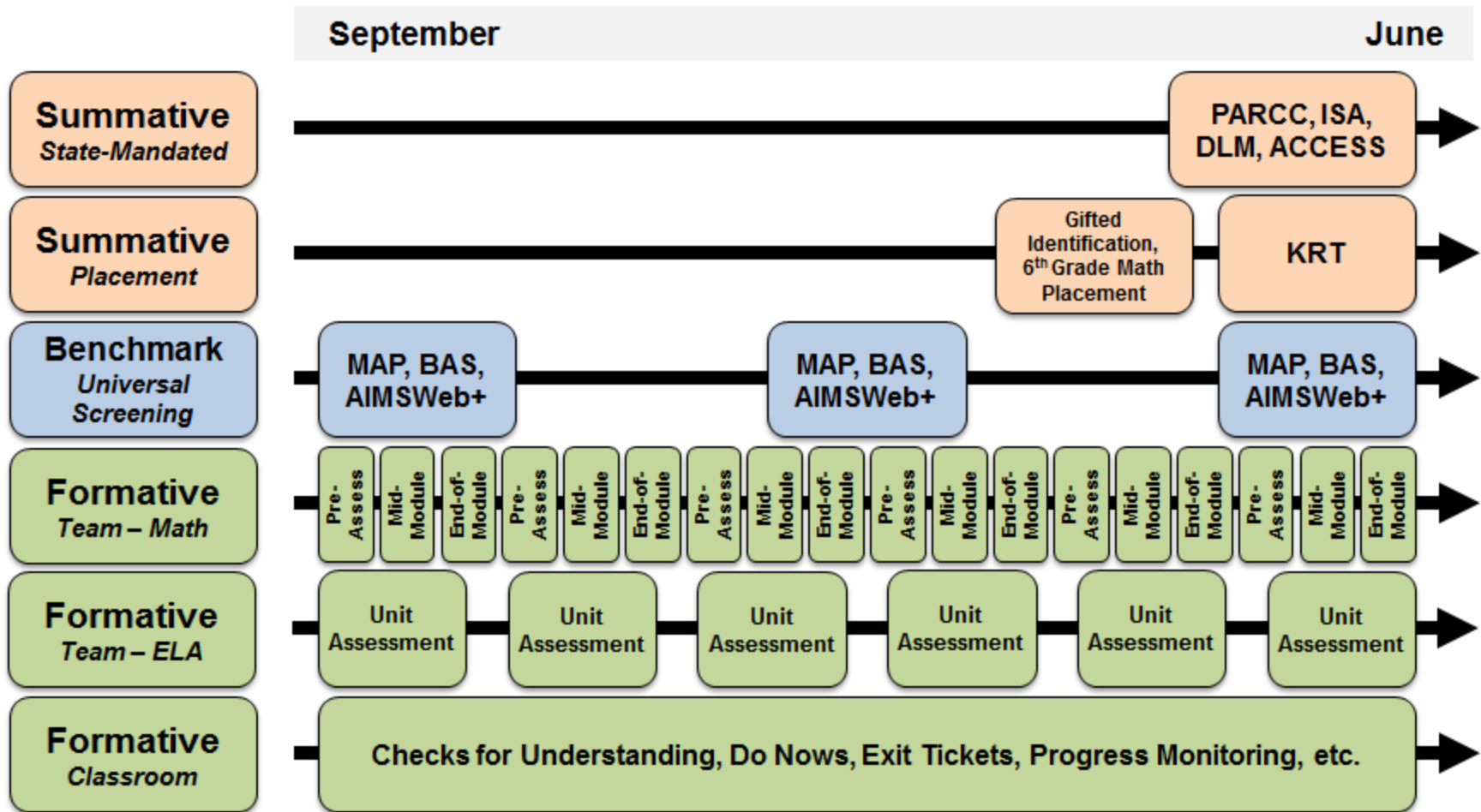
Assessment & Data Beliefs

- Assessment contributes to student growth, improved performance, and understanding of content.
- Assessment is crucial for guiding instruction and finding students in need of support.
- Assessment should be aligned to curriculum and standards. Standards, in fact, are meaningless without assessments – assessments define what is meant by the standards.
- Assessment should be focused on both student growth and student attainment.
- Assessments should be valid and reliable, as well as evaluated for cultural bias and remedied if bias is found. Assessments of high quality have value.
- Assessment practice utilizes a variety of methods, including; standardized, formative, summative, teacher-created, and in-the-moment observations and checks for understanding.
- The term “data” simply refers to facts and information. It includes assessment data, but it also includes a teacher’s knowledge and observations about a student or group of students.
- Data from assessments should be used to monitor student progress and mastery, teacher effectiveness, program evaluation, and curriculum.
- Data must be communicated to all stakeholders in a meaningful and useful way.
- Data must be collected using multiple sources in order to effectively triangulate and use for decision making.
- Staff must be trained to effectively administer assessments in order for the results to be useful.
- Assessment practice should be monitored and changed as needed for effectiveness.

Assessment Overview - Table View

	Frequency	Most relevant to	Types of information	Examples
Formative – Classroom	Daily, weekly	Teachers, students, families	<p>Mastery of specific skills and knowledge and mastery of conceptual understanding, for both content and use of academic language</p> <p>Can also include diagnostic assessments for students screened as needing intervention and progress monitoring toward grade-level skills</p>	Checks for understanding, do nows, exit tickets, quizzes, writing assignments, observations, discussions, AIMSWeb+, running records, or other curriculum-based measures
Formative – Team	Unit, monthly	Teacher teams, Instructional Leadership Teams (ILTs)	Mastery of larger chunks of instruction	Common unit tests or performance assessments, pre-assessments, mid and end-of-module Eureka Math assessments
Benchmark	Mid to end of each trimester	Teacher teams, ILTs, District content/PD supports	Mastery towards pre-defined criteria, norm-referenced	NWEA MAP, BAS, AIMSWeb+
Summative – Placement	As needed for placement decisions	Students, families	Readiness for special programs or classes, placement within existing course structures	KRT, Gifted Identification, 6th Grade Placement Test
Summative – State-Mandated	Yearly	All stakeholders	Mastery of the range of learning expectations for the entire year, norm-referenced	PARCC, ISA, DLM, ACCESS

Assessment Overview - Frequency View



NOTE: Number of Math Modules per year varies by grade level. Number of ELA Unit Assessments may change as the curriculum plan continues to develop.

Assessment Descriptions

PARCC – The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is the state assessment and accountability measure for Illinois students enrolled in a public school district. PARCC assesses the New Illinois Learning Standards Incorporating the Common Core and will be administered to students in English Language Arts and mathematics. PARCC assessments in English Language Arts and mathematics will be administered to all students in grades 3-8, according to their current grade level and at high school according to course enrollment.

MAP – The Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), developed by NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association.), is a computerized adaptive test, given to students in grades 2-8, that measures a child's academic growth from year to year in the areas of mathematics, reading, and language usage. In the MAP system, the difficulty of the test is adjusted to the student's performance. The difficulty of each question is based on how well the student has answered all of the questions up to that point. As the student answers correctly, the questions become more difficult. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier.

Illinois State Science Assessment – The Illinois Science Assessment is designed to measure student learning on the new Illinois Science Standards incorporating the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) that were adopted in 2014. For grades 5 and 8, test items are aligned to physical science, life science, earth/space science and engineering.

Dynamic Learning Maps – The Dynamic Learning Maps® (DLM®) is an alternate assessment that offers an innovative way for all students with significant cognitive disabilities in grades 3-8 to demonstrate their learning throughout the school year via the DLM Alternate Assessment System.

Benchmark Assessment System (BAS) – Teachers' identify each child's instructional and independent reading levels according to the F&P Text Level Gradient™, A–Z and document their progress through one-on-one formative and summative assessments. The Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment Systems provide teachers with precise tools and texts to observe and quantify specific reading behaviors, and then interpret and use that data to plan meaningful instruction.

AIMSWeb+ – AIMSWeb+ is a formative assessment, data management, and reporting system for grades K-8 supporting multi-tiered instructional models. Designed to universally screen and progress monitor, AIMSWeb+ uses brief, valid, and reliable measures of foundational skills in reading and math. The assessment helps identify at-risk students early, monitor progress, and differentiate and track the success of targeted instruction.

Assessing Comprehension & Communication in English State to State (ACCESS) – is a standards-based, criterion referenced English language proficiency test designed to measure English language learners' social and academic proficiency in English. It assesses social and instructional English as well as the language associated with language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies within the school context across the four language domains.

Gifted Placement Test TBD – In the 2017-2018 school year, the D97 Ad Hoc Committee on gifted instruction will review and recommend a placement test to help identify students for gifted and talented programming.

6th Grade Math Placement Test – The 6th grade math placement test was created by a team of D97 teachers and staff to assess mastery of 5th and 6th grade math standards to ensure proper placement in 6th grade math courses. It contains 26 questions, which assess the five domains of the CCSS in math: Geometry, Ratios & Proportions, Number Systems, Statistics & Probability, and Expressions and Equations.

Kindergarten Readiness Test – The Kindergarten Readiness Test (KRT) is administered to incoming kindergarten students to assist in determining a student's readiness in beginning Kindergarten. The readiness skills assessed are vocabulary, letter identification, visual discrimination, phonemic awareness, comprehension & interpretation and mathematical knowledge.