Common Assessments

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| Assessment | How does it report results | What does it measure | What it DOESN’T measure |
| PSSA | * Performance Levels and Scale Scores * Most valuable when converted to Percentiles | * After instruction, how well did the student perform in comparison to other students in his/her grade level in relation to end of grade level expectations? | * How high, in relation to the standards, a student is capable of performing. |
| Keystones | * Performance Levels and Scaled Scores * Most valuable when converted to Percentiles, but can only gauge within a range of percentiles due to multiple administrations of the assessment in one year | * After instruction, how well did the student perform in comparison to other students in relation to end of grade/course level expectations. | * How high, in relation to the standards, a student is capable of performing. |
| Grades | * Usually in letters, percents, or some other value judgement based on raw scores. | * After instruction, how well the student performed in a teacher’s class. | * Does not distinguish between content/skills development in standards related tasks and other criteria. * May contain value judgements on performance on homework completion, class participation, effort. |
| Benchmark Assessments i.e.  Study Island  DIBELS  AIMSWeb  EasyCBM  STAR  4Sight | * Raw score, percentile, and in some instances a scale score. | * Performance on a measure designed to predict performance on the end of grade/course level assessment. * Informs teachers if the student is likely below, on, or above the trajectory to score proficient on end of course/grade level assessments like PSSA/Keystone | * How high, in relation to the end of grade/course level expectations, a student is capable of performing. * Discreet skills that can be determined through assessment analysis to determine exactly where instruction should intervene. Usually the number of items in particular standard area/eligible content is too small to really know if the student can/cannot demonstrate achievement in that skill. |

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| More Comprehensive Benchmarks  [MAP](https://www.nwea.org/content/uploads/2015/08/MAP-2015-Comparative-Data-to-Inform-Instructional-Decisions-One-Sheet-DEC15.pdf) | * Scaled score ( RIT Score) or percentile | * Compares how a student performs on increasingly difficult tasks (RIT Scale) as reported in a RIT Score – Rasch Unit – which indicates the level of difficulty a student is capable of answering correctly 50% of the time in the areas of math, reading, language usage, and general science. * Reports how a student has grown from one test administration to another in the same year. * Compares how your student performed against other same grade level students across the nation who took the same test (Most recent norms are 2015). * Provides correlations to performance on other measures. | * What grade level a student is functioning at when assessed on standards based or standards aligned questions. |
| Classroom Diagnostic Tool | * Scaled Score (overall and by subgroup) in Math, Reading, Literature/Writing Composition, and science | * How accurately the student answered questions aligned to the standards in multiple grade levels (quantity of grade level maps that can be viewed differs based on which assessment was administered). | * How a student performed on all grade level standards. * The likelihood of what a student will score on an end of grade/course level test |
| Teacher Input Forms | * Raw score in a particular classroom/instructional setting | * How a student performs in class based on teacher perceptions of behaviors that usually correlate with gifted students. | * How much of grade/course level achievement has occurred |
| Pre-assessment, homework, classwork, Exit tickets, think—pair-share, etc. | * Raw score in a particular instructional setting while learning is still happening before a final summative assessment | * How accurately students demonstrate what they Know-Understand-Do on establish unit, lesson, or activity objectives. | * How far above the objectives the student can perform. |
| PVAAS  PA Value Added Assessment System | * Achievement Probability for a performance level * Projection to a percentile | * Projections to percentiles or performance scores on future assessment – PSSA, Keystone, ACT, SAT, or AP Exams * How the student is projected to perform on future assessments – PSSA, Keystone, ACT, SAT, or AP Exams | * How much the individual student grew |