

Most formative tests occur three times and summative tests occur once a year. There may be more than one summative test.



Once in the beginning for readiness (diagnostic)



Once in the middle of the year to make sure your student is keeping up (formative)



Once at the end of the year to make sure your child is ready for the next grade (summative)

In a classroom, assessment is happening all the time.

When teachers ask their classes questions, they are assessing, when there is a discussion group, teachers listen to see who is on track and who might not be joining in; reviewing homework and classwork is a way of evaluating mastery.

Teachers use all of these ways to evaluate or assess what your student is learning and what to teach next.

Students with an IEP or who have a 504 Accommodations Plan have many testing accommodations available to them. Each student is individual and will be treated as such. Some students may be able to demonstrate better what they have learned using a form of assessment other than a standardized test. Parents and teachers should discuss what is best for each student. Parents should determine if a student should opt out of participating in certain tests. If parents wish to read more about opting out of taking tests they may access information on our website <http://www.aps.edu/assessment/parent-resources>; or may discuss this with staff at the APS Service Center or with their school principal.



Accelerate Progress for Students

PARENTS' GUIDE TO REQUIRED ASSESSMENTS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Assessment is a critical component of many things in our life, including the instructional cycle. Without assessment, how do you know where you are going, what students need to reach the target, and how well students learned the content to a standard that is common across the district?

This guide is to help you understand the various required assessments, their purpose and their frequency. For detailed information on test windows, please see the Middle School Assessment Plan.

6th Grade

Your student will take the PARCC assessment in English Language Arts and in Math once a year; this takes about 9.16 hours total. The PARCC is required by the state and the federal government, and is used for tracking student progress, teacher evaluation, and school grades. If your child has a significant cognitive disability, he/she will take the NCSC, which takes the place of PARCC.

In math, your student will take the Math Interim assessment two times a year, which takes about 90 minutes. Schools may elect to use the interim assessment provided by the district or select another assessment with the approval of the associate superintendent. This interim assessment is required by APS to help your child's teacher determine how your child is learning, where the trouble spots are, and what the teacher and student can do to improve.

In English Language Arts, your child will take the ELA interim assessment two times a year, which takes about 90 minutes. Schools may elect to use the interim assessment provided by the district or select another assessment with the approval of the associate superintendent. This interim assessment is required by APS to help your child's teacher determine how your child is learning, where the trouble spots are, and what the teacher and student can do to improve.

In Art, Family and Consumer Science, Keyboarding, Music, PE, Science and Social Studies, your child will take an End of Course Exam once a year, which takes about 75 minutes. These EOCs are required by the state and is used for teacher evaluation.

If your child is learning English, he/she will take the ACCESS test once a year, which takes about an hour. This assessment is required by the federal government and is used to determine your child's progress in English.

7th Grade

Your student will take the PARCC assessment in English Language Arts and in Math once a year; this takes about 9.16 hours total. The PARCC is required by the state and the federal government, and is used for tracking student progress, teacher evaluation, and school grades. If your child has a significant cognitive disability, he/she will take the NCSC, which takes the place of PARCC.

Your student will take the SBA in Science once a year; this takes about 3 hours total. The SBA is required by the state and the federal government, and is used for tracking student progress and for teacher evaluation. If your child has a significant cognitive disability, he/she will take the NMAPA, which takes the place of the SBA.

In math, your student will take the Math Interim assessment two times a year, which takes about 90 minutes. Schools may elect to use the interim assessment provided by the district or select another assessment with the approval of the associate superintendent. This interim assessment is required by APS to help your child's teacher determine how your child is learning, where the trouble spots are, and what the teacher and student can do to improve.

In English Language Arts, your child will take the ELA interim assessment two times a year, which takes about 90 minutes. Schools may elect to use the interim assessment provided by the district or select another assessment with the approval of the associate superintendent. This interim assessment is required by APS to help your child's teacher determine how your child is learning, where the trouble spots are, and what the teacher and student can do to improve.

In Art, Family and Consumer Science, Keyboarding, Music, PE, Science and Social Studies your child will take an End of Course Exam once a year, which takes about 75 minutes. These EOCs are required by the state and is used for teacher evaluation.

If your child is learning English, he/she will take the ACCESS test once a year, which takes about an hour. This assessment is required by the federal government and is used to determine your child's progress in English.

8th Grade

Your student will take the PARCC assessment in English Language Arts and in Math once a year; this takes about 9.16 hours total. The PARCC is required by the state and the federal government, and is used for tracking student progress, teacher evaluation, and school grades. If your child has a significant cognitive disability, he/she will take the NCSC, which takes the place of PARCC.

In math, your student will take the Math Interim assessment two times a year, which takes about 90 minutes. Schools may elect to use the interim assessment provided by the district or select another assessment with the approval of the associate superintendent. This interim assessment is required by APS to help your child's teacher determine how your child is learning, where the trouble spots are, and what the teacher and student can do to improve.

In English Language Arts, your child will take the ELA interim assessment two times a year, which takes about 90 minutes. Schools may elect to use the interim assessment provided by the district or select another assessment with the approval of the associate superintendent. This interim assessment is required by APS to help your child's teacher determine how your child is learning, where the trouble spots are, and what the teacher and student can do to improve.

In Algebra I, Art, Family and Consumer Science, Keyboarding, Music, PE, Science and Social Studies, your child will take an End of Course Exam once a year, which takes about 75 minutes. These EOCs are required by the state and is used for teacher evaluation.

If your child is learning English, he/she will take the ACCESS test once a year, which takes about an hour. This assessment is required by the federal government and is used to determine your child's progress in English.