



Benchmark Assessments

It is our goal to get to know our students as learners in many ways, including their achievement and growth related to grade-level expectations in reading and math. In the words of former District 36 superintendent and leader in progressive education Dr. Carleton Washburne, “Regardless of local conditions, it is always possible, and always wise, to know exactly what one is trying to teach; to find out, through complete, diagnostic tests, where each child needs help...” To that end, The District has expanded the reading and math benchmark assessments administered during fall, winter, and spring in Kindergarten through Grade 8.

Benchmark assessments are valuable tools that provide a snapshot of student progress at a point in time. These assessments help teachers to identify areas where students are excelling and where they may need additional support. They also inform instructional decisions by providing data that can be used to tailor teaching to meet each student's unique needs and strengths. Benchmark assessments are an important component of progressive education, which recognizes that students learn in different ways and at different rates. By using benchmark assessments to inform instruction, teachers can provide a more individualized approach to learning that supports each student's academic growth and personal development.

The expanded assessments include gathering information Kindergarten through Grade 8 in the areas of reading and math. The District is currently utilizing the following platforms to gather student learning information: aimswebPlus, mCLASS, and NWEA MAP. The table below depicts each grade level and the corresponding report that is enclosed. If you find an expected report missing, it may be due to a student's absence during the testing window. Please contact your child's school office for further information.

In order to better equip parents to be equal partners in their student's success, below are links to helpful resources for reading these reports. If you have questions about your child's learning, please contact their teacher as they have additional qualitative information from the classroom that may better illustrate how your child is progressing.

As a community of learners, we are navigating the way through how to best use this information along with the valuable insight gathered on a day-to-day basis in our schools. Thank you for being our partner in this growth process.

	aimswebPlus- Math	mClass- Literacy	NWEA MAP- Reading and Math
Kindergarten- Grade 2	x	x	
Grade 3/4	x	x	x
Grade 5/6	x	x	x
Grade 7/8			x

- Links to **information for families** provided by test platforms
 - [NWEA MAP Information for Families](#)
 - [mCLASS Literacy Assessment Information for Families](#)
 - [aimswebPlus Information for Families](#)

