

Testing & Assessment Updates - Beginning of the Year 25-26



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1. Testing and Assessment General Information:

- a. [Testing Calendar](#) (Doc version) and [Testing Calendar](#) (Google Calendar)
- b. [Master List of Assessments by term and grade level](#)
- c. [Testing & Assessment Website](#)
- d. **Building Test Coordinator Meeting Schedule**
 - i. Elementary BTC Training Dates
 1. [Monday, Aug 12, 2024 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm](#)
 2. [Tuesday, Sept 10, 2024 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm](#)
 3. [Tuesday, Jan 7, 2025 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm](#)
 4. [Tuesday, March 11, 2025 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm](#)
 - ii. High School BTC Training Dates
 1. [Tuesday, Aug 13, 2024 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm](#)
 2. [Tuesday, Oct 1, 2024 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm](#)
 3. [Tuesday, Jan 14th, 2025 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm](#)
 4. [Tuesday, March 4th, 2025 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm](#)
- e. **Testing Contacts:**
 - i. General Questions:
 1. Testing Main Line: 513-363-0180
 2. Testing email: cpstesting@cpsboe.k12.oh.us
 - ii. Training requests, data and reporting support, PD planning
 1. Amanda Vargo- 513-913-5820, vargoam@cpsboe.k12.oh.us
 - iii. Support with test schedules, test logistics, and platforms
 1. Theresa Thien- 513-363-0279, thienth@cpsboe.k12.oh.us

- f. Testing Platform Request Form- Please fill out this [Google Form](#) to request access to any testing platform. Please note: Teachers do not need to request access as they will be automatically rostered. Many other positions will also be automatically rostered. ***Please check your access to the platform you need BEFORE filling out the form.***
- g. Building Test Coordinators should have received an invitation to an Elementary BTC Chat or a High School BTC chat. Please accept this invitation as these are the chat groups we will use and monitor to get questions answered and troubleshoot real time issues.

Action Required: BTC Confirmation

If your BTC has changed from the 23-24 school year, please email cpstesting@cpsboe.k12.oh.us as soon as possible with the contact information of the new BTC.

2. Changes and Updates for the 24-25 School Year

Outlined below are a few changes for the 24-25 school year as compared to previous years.

- a. **Shortened and Staggered Benchmark Testing Windows-** This year's benchmark testing (iReady and MAP) windows devote a week to each subject and an additional week for makeup testing. This will allow shorter testing windows for more consistent and valid data and will ensure a minimum of 12 weeks of instruction between fall and winter testing. Additionally, the benchmark windows for K-2 students are staggered from the window for grades 3 and above. This will allow more time to revisit essential skills before Fall reading diagnostic testing (a metric on school report cards) and consistent time periods between test administrations. Please see the [24-25 Testing Calendar](#) for exact testing windows.
 - b. **Dyslexia Screening-** Starting in the 24-25 school year and beyond, all first grade students must be screened for Dyslexia in the Fall of their 1st grade year, as well as any student in grades 2-6 that are referred for screening. Acadience will serve as our state mandated Tier 1 Dyslexia Screener. Any student who scores well below Benchmark on Acadience must be administered the Developmental Spelling Assessment (DSA) as Tier II Screener. Procedures surrounding Dyslexia screening can be found in the [Cincinnati Public Schools Dyslexia Screening Procedures](#) document.
 - c. **In School WHEE Testing for 6th Graders (continuation from last year)-** CPS enrolled 6th grade students will have two opportunities to take the Walnut Hills Entrance Exam (WHEE) at their home school during the school day. All CPS 6th grade students will take the WHEE in October and families will have the option to sign up for a retest opportunity in January if they choose to do so.
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3. Third Grade Reading Guarantee Updates (continuation from last year)

In July of 2023, the legislature passed HB33 which included some permanent changes to the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. A brief outline of these changes in relation to third grade retention are below:

- Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, a student's parent or guardian, in consultation with the student's reading teacher and principal, may request that a student be promoted to fourth grade regardless of the student's score on Ohio's State Test for grade 3 English language arts.
 - Students promoted to fourth grade through this exemption must continue to receive intensive reading instruction until the student is able to read at grade level.
 - Starting in the 24-25 school year, the promotable score for the OST is the same as proficiency. This means that 3rd grade students must earn a 700 on the overall scaled score or a 50 on the reading subscore to be considered promotable. Students can also earn a 524 on the iReady winter or spring administrations of the iReady reading test to be considered promotable. Fall On Track scores for students in grades K-3 have not changed. On Track and Promotable scores can be found in this [one pager](#).
 - Additional changes to the Third Grade Reading Guarantee in HB 33, including information about RIMPS and interventions, can be found [here](#).
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4. Test Security Training on Safe Schools- Mandatory for ALL test proctors

This school year, all test security training, including the signing of the Test Security Agreement, will take place via a Safe Schools. The module is MANDATORY for all staff members that will administer any district or state assessment this school year. This Safe Schools module will replace live test security training traditionally facilitated by Building Test Coordinators and the physical signing of a Test Security Agreement. The module includes a video on test security, the virtual signing of the test security agreement, and a quiz that participants must score an 80% or better on. This module is live in Safeschools and must be completed every school year. Directions to access the module can be found [here](#).

Building Test Coordinators are still responsible for ensuring that all test proctors have completed this training. It is highly recommended that BTCs have their staff email them their certificate of completion once they finish the module. BTCs may print these out and keep hard copies, or save the emails in a folder in their inbox. BTCs should not allow anyone to proctor any district or state assessment until they have proof of completion of the test security training module.

5. Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

State law mandates that the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) must be administered within the first 20 days of instruction. **For CPS, the 24-25 KRA window is the first day of school through September 11th, 2024.**

Buildings will administer the KRA-R version of the KRA. This version was administered for the first time in the 21-22 school year and is significantly shorter than the previous version. All schools should have KRA-R kits located in a secure location. Each kindergarten classroom should have a KRA-R kit. If you do not have one kit per classroom, please email cpstesting@cpsboe.k12.oh.us with the number of kits you need. Please note: KRA-R kits are secure test materials from ODE. If your KRA kits have been misplaced, please contact the Testing Department as soon as possible.

Teacher Training - Only kindergarten teachers who have not yet been trained need to successfully complete the training on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment administration, score reporting, and use of the assessment data. ***Training is now fully asynchronous through the KReady system and can be completed at any time prior to administering the KRA.*** If you need a Kready account, please email cpstesting@cpsboe.k12.oh.us. Information, including step by step directions to sign up for training can be found [here](#).

We are requesting new SSIDs from EMIS daily so there is no need to reach out to them if a student does not yet have one. One step that you can take to ensure that an SSID is issued by the state in a timely manner is to check with your office staff and be sure the following fields are populated in Focus. ***Last Name, First Name, Middle Name, Gender, DOB, Birthplace location, Ethnicity, Language and Admission reason.*** Your senior support specialist will know where all of these fields are located and how to populate them. If a student has been enrolled with all required fields for a **full week** and has not been entered into Kready, please reach out to our department via cpstesting@cpsboe.k12.oh.us and we will investigate more closely.

Resources:

- [State Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Website](#)
- [Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Resources for Administrators](#)
- [Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Resources for Teachers](#)
- [Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Resources for Families](#)

6. Benchmark Assessments (iReady/MAP Growth)- Fall Window

MAP Growth and iReady benchmark assessments are important tools to measure student achievement and growth throughout the year. These assessments measure student skill levels and provide valuable information to inform instruction. The iReady Reading Assessments also serves as our state mandated reading diagnostic for grades 1 through 3 and repeating kindergarteners. This year we will have shortened and staggered benchmark testing windows to ensure achievement and growth data is timely, reliable, and valid while meeting the needs of different grade levels.

Fall MAP/iReady Window:

- **Grades 3 and above**
 - **Science: Aug 19th-Aug 23rd**
 - **Math: Aug 26th-Aug 30th**
 - **Reading: Sept 3rd-Sept 9th**
 - **Makeup Testing (if needed): Sept 10-Sept 13**
- **Grades K-2**
 - **Math: Sept 9th-Sept 13th**
 - **Reading: Sept 16th-Sept 20th**
 - **Makeup Testing (if needed): Sept 23rd-Sept 30th**

iReady Assessments:

- iReady diagnostics are automatically assigned to students. In order to ensure that students do not access the diagnostic assessment prior to testing time, **teachers MUST go into the iReady system and hide the diagnostic assessment until students are ready to test.** Teachers can hide the diagnostic at any time but it must be done before the window opens on 8/26 unless teachers plan to test first thing on 8/26. A one-pager document with directions on hiding the assessment can be found [here](#).
- Other diagnostic reminders can be found [here](#).
- There is a new [K-12 Placement Table](#) for the 24-25 school year.
- iReady has new norms for the 24-25 school year. These norms represent post pandemic achievement levels and will be automatically updated in the iReady system. More information on the new norms can be found [here](#).
- All iReady users, including administrators, will log into the system via the Clever tile



MAP Growth Assessments:

- The MAP Growth landing page was updated last year and looks significantly different from how it has looked in the past but you can navigate to the platform you are familiar with in just a few clicks. Please see this one pager for highlights of the [MAP Platform Changes](#).
- The MAP Growth reports have also been updated to be much more interactive and user friendly. Please see [these resources](#) to help navigate the new MAP growth reports.
- If you have teachers who need to be trained on the MAP Growth platform, please contact Amanda Vargo at vargoam@cpsboe.k12.oh.us to schedule MAP Growth training for your building.
- **NWEA (MAP Growth) Linking Study Information-** NWEA uses grade level achievement and growth norms to correlate RIT scores for each performance band on Ohio State and EOC tests. A summary of the linking study tables can be found [here](#). In addition to performance band correlation, the linking study includes:
 - Winter norms and linking study correlations for Algebra 1 Winter testing

- Norms and linking study correlations for the Life Sciences test to the Biology EOC
- RIT score correlations to competency scores for Algebra 1 and ELA 2

Resources:

- [MAP Growth “How To” Guide](#)
- [Assessments by Grade Level](#)
- For more information and additional resources, please see the [MAP/iReady page](#) of the Testing & Assessment website

Action Required: Building Test Schedule- Due 8/16

- Building Test Schedules for MAP/iReady assessments are due to the testing inbox (cpstesting@cpsboe.k12.oh.us) by August 16th, 2024.

7. Acadience/DIBELS (Elementary Only)

CPS will continue to use the Acadience Learning Online (ALO) platform for Acadience/Dibels administration this school year. Acadience will serve as our state mandated Tier 1 Dyslexia Screener. For more information on Dyslexia screening, see the section below.

Fall Acadience/Dibels Window: August 19th, 2024- September 30th, 2024

Training information:

- **Asynchronous Training Modules-** Optional training for the Acadience Learning Online platform is available in Safe Schools. Simply search “Acadience” in the Extra Trainings page to access the modules. This training covers administering Acadience online and serves as a refresher for assessment delivery.
- [Acadience Learning Online “How To” and Reports Guide](#)

8. Dyslexia Screening in 24-25 and Beyond

In school year 24-25 and beyond all students will be screened for Dyslexia, per state law, in the Fall of their 1st grade year. Additionally, any student who is referred for Dyslexia screening in grades 2-6, must be screened within 30 days of the referral. Acadience will continue to serve as our Tier 1 Dyslexia Screener. Students who are deemed “At Risk” according to the Tier 1 screener (scoring “well below benchmark” on Acadience) are required to be administered a Tier 2 screener which is the Developmental Spelling Assessment (DSA). Please note: although the DSA is only required for students deemed at risk according to the Tier 1 screener, it is strongly recommended for all students in grades K-3 as it is short and easy to administer to the whole class, and offers excellent instructional data. More information, as well as detailed instructions on Dyslexia screening can be found [here](#).

Fall Acadience/Dibels Window: August 19th, 2024- September 30th, 2024
The DSA can be administered anytime after the Fall Acadience Test. The window to enter the results of the DSA into Focus is October 1st, 2024 - Oct 31st, 2024

9. Fall Gifted Screening/WHEE Testing

Ohio state law mandates all students be screened for giftedness once in the K-2 grade band, and once in the 3-6 grade band. In CPS, we complete the whole grade screening process at the 2nd and 6th grades, and at other grade levels by parent or teacher referral using the CogAt, IOWA, and/or benchmark exams. Additionally, all 6th grade students will take the Walnut Hills Entrance Exam (WHEE) during this window.

Fall Gifted Screening/WHEE Window: Oct 7th-Nov 1st, 2024
Make-up Window: Nov 4th, 2024 - Nov 8th, 2024

Walnut Hills Entrance Exam (WHEE) for 6th graders

All CPS enrolled 6th grade students will have two opportunities to take the WHEE test at their home school during the school day. All students will be given the WHEE test (Reading, Vocabulary, Math, and Computation sections of the Iowa test) during the Fall window. Families will have an opportunity to sign their students up for a retake in January if they do not make qualifying scores in the Fall. CPS 6th grade students will no longer have to sign up for a Saturday testing date if they want a second opportunity for the test.

CogAT Platform

Riverside Insights, the company that produces the CogAt test, has made the decision to move the CogAt test back to the data manager platform. The Elevate platform is no longer available for the administration of this test. The Iowa and CogAt tests will be administered on the same legacy platform (Riverside Data Manager) that has been used in the past.

For the 2024-25 school year

- Grade 2 will only take the CogAT during the gifted screening/WHEE window
- Grade 6 will take the CogAT and the Iowa Reading & Vocabulary (for a Reading Total) and the Iowa Math & Computation (for a Math Total) during the gifted screening/WHEE window
- Gifted testing for all other grades and subject areas not listed above will be done by referral during the gifted screening/WHEE window.

The referral process has changed.

Completed [referral forms](#) should be sent to Jessica Boswell: boswelj@cpsboe.k12.oh.us.
Allow up to 30 days for the form to be reviewed by DSS and the test website/materials prepared by Test Administration.

Resources:

- [CogAT/IOWA “How To” Guide](#)
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10. PSAT/NMSQT (HS ONLY)

The PSAT will be given to all 10th and 11th grade students. The PSAT is a practice test at grade 10 and the National Merit Scholarship Qualification Test at grade 11. This year, the PSAT will continue to be given online. We will order materials FOR YOU this year based on enrollment in the 10th and 11th grades at your school.

Key Dates:

- **Accommodations Requests Deadline: September 3rd, 2024** (*Accommodations must be Approved Before Ordering*) – * NEW *: EL supports are now available for the PSAT/NMSQT
- **PSAT/NMSQT Date: October 21st-October 25th, 2024**
 - **Make up testing can continue 10/28-10/29, 2024**

Collecting ACT, College Board Accommodations Coordinators

- Please complete the [ACT, College Board Accommodations Coordinators form](#) by Aug 30, 2024
- This information will be used for the payment of the Accommodations stipends at the high schools.

Resources for PSAT ordering accommodations:

- [How to Request Accommodations](#)
- [SSD Online Dashboard](#)
- [PSAT/NMSQT Coordinator Site](#)

Resources for transition to the digital PSAT (Note: Many of these resources refer to the digital SAT but the PSAT uses all of the same platforms and guidelines. We will spend a lot more time on the digital PSAT at our October BTC meeting so feel free to explore but know that more is coming!)

- [School and District Resource Center](#)
 - [Planning Accommodations for the Digital SAT Suite](#)
 - [Self-Guided On-Demand Modules for Educators](#)
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11. OELPS:

We are entering students into TIDE at least twice per week on Tuesday and Friday mornings once they have an SSID. **We are requesting new SSIDs from EMIS daily so**

there is no need to reach out to them if a student does not yet have one. One step that you can take to ensure that an SSID is issued by the state in a timely manner is to check with your office staff and be sure the following fields are populated in Focus. ***Last Name, First Name, Middle Name, Gender, DOB, Birthplace location, Ethnicity, Language and Admission reason.*** Your senior support specialist will know where all of these fields are located and how to populate them. If a student has been enrolled with all required fields for a **full week** and has not been entered into TIDE, please reach out to our department via the testing mailbox and we will investigate more closely.