

Assessment Information

ACCESS for ELLs, Grades K-12

The ACCESS for ELLs® test is an English language proficiency assessment based on the Model Performance Indicators (MPIs) of the WIDA English language development (ELD) standards for students K-12. The ACCESS for ELLs® test assesses social and instructional English used within the school context as well as academic English associated with language arts, mathematics, science and social studies across the four language domains of listening, speaking, reading and writing. The ACCESS for ELLs® test is administered annually to EL students in grades K-12 to monitor their progress in acquiring English proficiency.

Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), Grade 5

The Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) is a multiple-choice K-12 assessment that measures reasoning skills with different types of verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal questions. The CogAT is a group-administered aptitude test. The results will be used as a part of multiple criteria to determine if students may qualify for academically gifted services.

DPS Benchmarks, Grades 3-12

Benchmark assessments are interim tests, designed by DPS specialists, to measure student progress aligned with our curriculum.

DPS Writing Benchmark, Grades K-11

Students are assessed to determine their level of proficiency in writing in response to a prompt.

Local Science Assessments, Grades 5-8 and High School

Locally developed assessments to track student progress across the year in learning state science objectives.

Local Student Growth Assessments (SGA), Grades 6-12 Science & History/Social Science, Grades 9-12 Reading & Mathematics

SGA are used as pre and post-tests so that teachers are aware of what students know as they begin instruction and can determine what students have learned later

Naglieri Non-Verbal Abilities Test, Grades 1 & 3

The NNAT (Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test) is a group-administered test of nonverbal abilities that utilizes shapes and figures to evaluate the problem-solving and reasoning abilities of a child without relying on their language skills. In other words, the NNAT assesses how a student thinks instead of what a student knows. The results are used as a part of multiple criteria to determine if a student may be eligible for academically gifted services.

Northwest Evaluation Association Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), Grades 1-2 Math, Grade 9 Reading & Math

MAP is used as a growth assessment for students in grades 1 and 2 for mathematics and in grade 9 for both reading and mathematics. MAP scores give us important information on where students are ready to begin instruction in the fall and how they have progress as we move across the year.

Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening, Grades 1-3 (PALS 1-3)

PALS is the state-provided screening tool for Virginia's Early Intervention Reading Initiative (EIRI). The purpose of the EIRI is to reduce the number of children with reading problems through early diagnosis and immediate intervention. All students not meeting the Entry Level benchmark for their grade level must receive intervention services in addition to their regular classroom instruction.

Preliminary Scholastic Achievement Test (PSAT), Grades 8 & 10

The PSAT provides early feedback on student knowledge in the areas that matter most for college and career readiness.

Standards of Learning (SOL) Integrated Reading/Writing Field Test, Grades 5, 8 & 11-12

All students in grades 5 and 8 and high school students who will take the spring SOL EOC Reading tests will participate in a full scale, stand-alone field test in the spring of 2023. This online field test will prepare students for a new SOL test item type integrating reading and writing. The "new item type asks students to write about what they have read in a nonfiction passage that may include history/social science- or science-based content. While reinforcing the importance of having students write about what they have read, this new integrated reading and writing item will also provide a measure of students' writing ability without requiring an additional test." (VDOE, 2022)

Standards of Learning Growth Assessments (SOL), Grades 3-8 Reading & Mathematics

The SOL Growth Assessments are new assessments in reading and mathematics for students in grades 3-8. These tests are structured like the traditional SOL tests students and parents are familiar with. However, they are now given three times a year in fall, winter and spring. This provides educators with the a starting point for instruction as well as growth information at the midpoint of the year.

Standards of Learning Assessments (SOL), Grades 3-12

The traditional SOL tests are given in the fall for high school students and in the spring for all students in grades 3-8 and high school.

- > Reading & Mathematics, Grades 3-8 & End of Course (EOC)
- > Writing, Grade 8 & EOC
- > Algebra I, Geometry & Algebra II, Grades 7-12
- > Science, Grade 5 & 8
- > Earth Science, Biology & Chemistry, Grades 9-12
- > Virginia Studies, Grade 4
- > Civics & Economics, Grade 7
- > World History I, World History II & VA/US History, Grades 9-12
- > Local Performance Assessments are given for the eliminated SOL tests:
 - > Grade 3 Science & History, Grade 5 Writing, US History I, Grade 5, and US History II, Grade 6 (schedule to be announced)

Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP), Grades Pk-K

VKRP consists of three assessments, PALS, EMAS & CBRS, given to both PK and K students across the year. See above for detail on PALS. The Child Behavior Rating Scale (CBRS) measures student readiness to function in the classroom environment. The CBRS is given in the fall and spring. The Early Math Assessment System (EMAS) measures students' mathematical skills. EMAS is given in the fall and spring of the year.

For Additional Information Please Contact:

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