

Council Bluffs Community School District

Assessments for High School Students

creating the
path forward



The Council Bluffs Community School District measures student achievement in a variety of ways throughout the school year. It is important to use Classroom, District-wide and Standardized Assessments to accurately determine whether students are performing as expected. Teachers can re-teach and accelerate learning by knowing whether students have mastered the lessons being taught.

Classroom and District Assessments are the most common and measure student progress toward learning goals and coursework expectations. Standardized assessments are created by others and can be used to compare students throughout the state or country. Included are descriptions of most of the assessments taken by high school students.

Abraham Lincoln High School • Kaneshville Alternative Learning Center
Thomas Jefferson High School • Tucker Career & College Center

District Assessments

District Assessments are developed within the Council Bluffs Schools by teachers and teacher leaders. These assessments are given to students in the areas of language arts (grades K-12), math (grades K-12), social studies (grades 6-12), science (grades 9-12), visual and performing arts (grades 3-12) and music (grades 3-12), and are given throughout the school year. These assessment measure each student's learning of the District curriculum, which is matched to the Iowa Core Curriculum and national standards. The results of these assessments are analyzed and used to adjust instruction over time.

Grades
K-12

ELPA21

The ELPA21 (English Language Proficiency Assessment) is replacing the IELDA as the growth measure used to assess English language proficiency. This new assessment is tightly aligned to the new Iowa English Language Proficiency Standards and corresponds to the Iowa English Language Arts Standards of the Iowa Core. The ELPA21 is an online assessment, measuring English proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. This assessment is administered to English Language Learners in all grades each spring.

Grades
K-12

Iowa Assessments

Iowa Assessments are the state-required assessments that all Iowa students in grades 3-8 and grades 10 and 11 are given once each year in the spring. In the Council Bluffs Schools, students in 2nd grade and 9th grade are also given the Iowa Assessments. This test is a pencil-paper test on which students select the best response to each item by filling in a corresponding bubble on a bubble sheet that is later scanned and scored at the Iowa Testing Programs Office in Iowa City. This test includes a variety of sub-tests that include Reading Comprehension, Math, and Science. The Iowa Assessment results are used to determine the degree to which the District is accomplishing its goals as measured by state criteria.

Grades
2-11

DLM (Dynamic Learning Maps)

The Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alternate Assessment is the State of Iowa's AYP alternate assessment of student knowledge of the Iowa Core English, language arts, mathematics, & DLM Science Essential Elements. The DLM Alternate Assessment is administered three times during the school year to students in grades 3-8 and 10-11 with the most significant cognitive disabilities whose academic performance is appropriately judged against alternate achievement standards.

Grades
3-8,
10-11

Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI)

Created by the well-known Scholastic company, the SRI is a computer-based assessment intended to measure reading comprehension by matching students to appropriate levels of text so they can read with confidence and control. The difficulty of the items on this assessment is escalated or de-escalated based on how a student answers. Results from the SRI are reported as scaled scores called Lexiles (L). The scale goes from less than 100L to 1500L, based on the child's comprehension of the text and the difficulty of the items to which a student responded. The SRI is administered four times each year. The purpose of administering it more than once is to measure growth in reading achievement, a priority for all students.

Grades
2-12

WorkKeys (National Career Readiness Certificate)

The WorkKeys, or National Career Readiness Certificate examination, assesses an individual's skill level in three areas deemed critical for employability: Reading for Information, Applied Mathematics, and Locating Information. This ACT-developed assessment researched more than 16,000 occupations before developing these three assessments. The NCRC gives individuals proof that they possess the skills employers deem essential to workplace success. Students who earn the National Career Readiness Certificate often have improved career opportunities. All the junior and senior students who take double block (2 hour) classes at the Tucker Center take the test within a given trimester. All seniors throughout the school district are encouraged to take the assessment in the spring, at the same time the other grade levels are taking the Iowa Assessments.

Grades
11-12

Advanced Placement (AP) Exams

Advanced Placement exams are taken by high school students who participate in Advanced Placement courses in a wide variety of subject areas. The AP courses have a standardized curriculum and are designed to challenge students. Students can earn college credit by taking the end-of-course exam and scoring at least a 3 on a five-point scale. Students can become AP Scholars by scoring well on several AP exams. The exams are recommended, but not required, and there is a potential cost to each student to take the exam.

High
School

ACT (American College Test)

The ACT is a standardized college admissions test, developed by ACT, Inc. This exam includes sub-tests in the areas of English, mathematics, reading, and science skills. Since this test is required by many colleges and universities, students are highly encouraged to take this test. Council Bluffs high school students may take an ACT prep course to prepare for the test. Students register to take the ACT, offered several times each year outside of the school day. The test is optional and there is a cost to take the ACT.

High
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