

Council Bluffs Community School District

Assessments for Middle 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 middle school students.

Kirn Middle School • Wilson Middle School

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

Formative Assessment System for Teachers (FAST)

The Formative Assessment System for Teachers (FAST) is a state-required measurement group of assessments designed to help educators screen, monitor progress, and analyze reading skills of students compared to grade-level expectations. The FAST is given to students in grades 2-6 three times during the school year so that educators may monitor each student's progress on oral reading fluency. It is a simple and efficient assessment during which teachers listen and evaluate student performance while the students read aloud from grade-level passages. Students who are not proficient or who are considered at risk of falling below grade-level expectations are monitored more often.

Grades
K-6

For students in kindergarten and first grade, FAST provides the Early Reading Assessment to screen and monitor student progress three times during the school year. This assessment tool includes tests to analyze skill levels in the concepts of print, such as letter sounds and names, phonological awareness, blending/segmenting, decoding sight words, and sentence reading.

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