



What Parents May Want to Know about State Assessments for 2011/2012

The Kentucky Board of Education in responding to Legislative Action (SB1) has developed a new state assessment and accountability testing system - Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress (K-PREP). The purpose of these assessments is to identify the strengths and areas needing improvement for each student as well as for each school and district. The following describes each of the components of the assessment system that will be implemented during the 2011/2012 school year.

- **Primary Grades K-2:** Assessment requirement is for each student to have a diagnostic test in both reading and math to determine skill level. Currently the specific test used is not required by SB1 to be the same in all schools - the requirement is that each student's skill level be measured and that teachers use the data gathered to plan for the student's learning progress. In Clark County we are using the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test to determine how our students are progressing and we administer the MAP test three times a year.

- **Grades 3-8:** K-PREP assessment is a blended model built with criterion-referenced test (CRT) and norm-referenced test (NRT) items. The NRT is a purchased test with national norms (Stanford Achievement Series-Stanford 10) and the CRT portion is customized for Kentucky based on the new Kentucky Core Academic Standards (KCAS) in English/Language Arts and Math and on the Kentucky Core Content Standards for Science and Social Studies. The assessment consists of multiple-choice (MC), constructed-response (CR) and or open response (OR) items. The MC items will count 1 point; the CR items will count 2 points (short-answer) and open response items (OR) will count 4 points. On-Demand Writing assessments use passage-based and situational prompts. Students will take these assessments within a five-day testing window during the last 14 days of the district's instructional calendar. The five testing days must occur within the final 14 days of the school year. Parents will receive individual reports on the results of the tests.

- **Grades 8, 10 and 11: College readiness assessments:** As part of the Kentucky Board of Education's performance measure plan, students in these three grades take tests that are part of the ACT assessment system known as Educational Planning and Assessment System (EPAS) that measure readiness for college and/or their career. Eight (8th) graders take the EXPLORE and the tenth (10th) graders take the PLAN. These tests are taken during the last two weeks of September and focus on the student's current demonstrated skill level as it reflects progress toward college readiness.

Juniors (11th graders) take the state required ACT in March. The ACT is based on set standards and gives students, parents and school staff a measure of how well the student is projected to handle college level courses and indicates the student's current demonstrated skill level as it reflects progress toward college readiness. The March ACT score is very important and it used by colleges and the high school to determine college readiness. Students may take the ACT more than once.

• **Grades 9-12: End-of-Course program from ACT**-This year, students will take end-of course (EOC) assessments in selected courses. The state requires that EOC tests be administered in English II, Algebra II, US History and Biology. EOC assessments are aligned with ACT Quality Core curriculum and the Kentucky Core Academic Standards that are being taught in these classes therefore students will be well prepared for success on the course assessments. Throughout the year, student academic progress is monitored using formative assessments and EOC like assessments to ensure mastery of the content and student success.

At the completion of that particular course (either at the end of the first semester or at the end of the school year) students will take the end of course assessment. The end of course assessment will count as 30% of the student's grade in that course for the year.

Grades 10 and 11 will be also taking an On-demand writing assessment.

• **Alternate Assessment** - these assessments measure the progress of our students with significant special needs. The Portfolio (which was part of this assessment in the past) has been eliminated; Alternate Assessment students will be tested in the same content areas as all other students. Tests will be given over a period of several months (February through May).

Parents will receive individual reports on the results from all of the 9-12 tests.

Additional information can be found on the Kentucky Department of Education web site at:

<http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/Administrative+Resources/Testing+and+Reporting+/Kentucky+School+Testing+System/>