Teaching & Learning

Assessment Guide
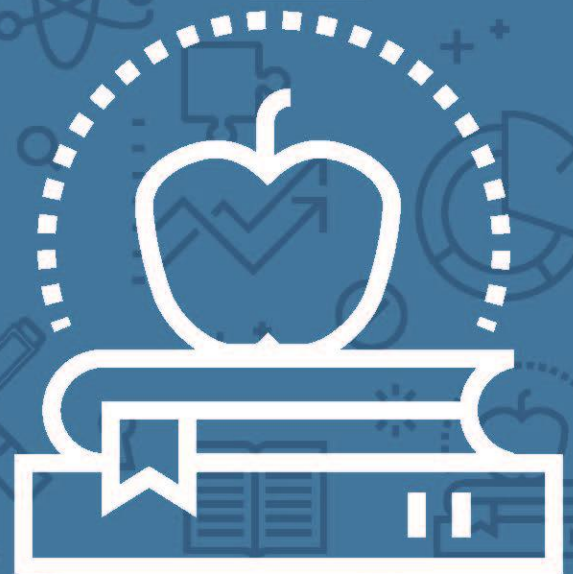## 2023-2024

Richmond
County School System

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Revised July, 2023

Teaching and Learning Assessment Calendar

i-Ready Universal Screener Window Dates for Grades K-8

BOY	August 28th-September 15th
MOY	January 8th -26th
EOY	April 22-May 10th

i-Ready Growth Monitoring Window for Select Students for Grades K-8

Fall Window	October 1st- November 1st
Spring Window	February 1st-March 1st

NWEA Map Universal Screener Window Dates for Grades 9-12

Fall	August 28th-September 15th
Winter	January 8th-26th
Spring	April 22-May 10th (Grades 9-11 only)

CMA Instructional and Testing Window Dates for Grades 3-8 and HS Tested Courses

CMA	Testing Window
#1	September 25th-October 6th
#2	December 4th-15th
#3	February 26th- March 15th

Universal Screeners

i-Ready

The i-Ready diagnostic is administered in grades K-8. It is designed to establish a metric that will allow for an accurate assessment of student knowledge that can be monitored over a period of time to gauge student improvement. It accurately assesses student knowledge for different content domains within the English Language Arts and Mathematics content areas. The diagnostic provides detailed information on what skills students are likely to have mastered and identifies the next progression of skills. Teachers should use diagnostic data to drive their instructional planning beginning with the Prerequisite Report. This report addresses unfinished learning. In preparation for the first diagnostic, please have teachers review the video on how to get good data.

Growth monitoring throughout the year is imperative to student success. However, if done too often, growth monitoring in i-Ready can result in student fatigue and unreliable data. The recommendation is to use the BOY data to identify students who are below grade level and complete growth monitoring checks using i-Ready **no more than once per month** on identified students. The i-Ready team will be visiting schools to assist in using the universal screening data and growth monitoring checks to adjust and plan instruction.

i-Ready data can be used as part of the MTSS process as well. Progress monitoring data from lessons passed, teacher assigned lessons, and current grade level proficiency as evidenced by universal screeners and growth monitoring checks can all be used as a part of MTSS process.

NWEA Map

The NWEA Map diagnostic is administered in grades 9-12. It is a computer adaptive test designed to measure student growth and achievement levels in English Language Arts and Mathematics. The diagnostic measures what students know and what they are ready to learn next. Teachers utilize the data to drive instructional planning and enhance the personalize learning experiences for all students.

Use the NWEA Map tools to learn how to make instructional decisions. The link includes information on how to effectively administer test sessions, reports to utilize in understanding MAP growth data, and resources teachers can use to communicate data with their students and families.

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Unit Pre and Post Assessments

Pre and post testing refers to academic achievement tests (in reading, mathematics, science, social studies) that are given to students to assess their academic progress from the beginning to the end of a program of instruction. They are used to inform ongoing unit instruction. For our purposes, the **district required pre and post assessments** should be administered at the beginning and the end of each unit based on the curriculum maps. These assessments are housed in the Canvas LMS platform for all grade levels. *(Kindergarten should utilize the pre and post assessments in Ready Math for their Mathematics pre and post)* If you have any questions about the pre and post assessments, please contact Aletha Snowberger.

Content Area	Grade Level	Platform
Mathematics	K (only)	Ready Classroom Math
ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies	K-12	Canvas

Best Practices on Administering Pre and Post Assessments

Pre-Assessment

- Prior to beginning of the unit, administer unit pre-assessments on the buffer days identified on the RCSS Curriculum Maps.
- Pre-Assessments can be found inside the Canvas courses for the specific course.
- Kindergarten Math will use the Ready Math Platform for math pre and post assessments.
- Pre-Assessments **should not be graded**; however, they can provide insight on students' prior knowledge as well as promote student engagement.
- Use pre-assessment data to strategically plan the students' learning paths, determine interventions and acceleration, and implement purposeful grouping.
- Engage students in goal setting for the unit.
- During the unit, confer with students to provide feedback on progress towards mastery of the standard.

Post-Assessment

- Pre-Assessments can be found inside the Canvas courses for the specific course.
- Kindergarten Math will use the Ready Math Platform for math pre and post assessments.
- After completion of the unit, administer unit post-assessments at the completion of the unit, as identified on the curriculum map, to measure mastery of the standard(s) assessed.
- Assessment **can be graded**.
- Utilize the RCSS Data Analysis Protocol to determine and plan remediation or acceleration.
- Celebrate student success and growth

Evidence-based Resources

Ainsworth, Larry. 2014. *Common Formative Assessments 2.0.* Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin, A Sage Company.

RCSS Content Mastery Assessments

The RCSS Content Mastery Assessments (CMA) are standards-based interim assessments developed for teachers by the Georgia Center for Assessments. They provide a bridge between classroom assessments and end-of-year summative assessments.

Educators use the data from standards-based Content Mastery Assessments to

- Evaluate student learning of specific Georgia Standards of Excellence.
- Analyze patterns of student need to inform changes to the curriculum and instruction.
- Synthesize student misconceptions to inform instructional strategies and interventions.

Content Mastery Assessments are designed around a set of priority standards. They enable educators to collect deep and meaningful information about student learning of the standards. Standards assessed on the Content Mastery Assessments address critical skills and applications of grade level standards. To ensure the Content Mastery Assessments are curriculum and instruction sensitive, the RCSS Content Mastery Assessment Taskforce created Content Mastery Assessment Blueprints that closely align to the sequencing of standards as outlined in the RCSS Curriculum Maps. CMA Assessments will be available for teachers to view and use to plan instruction *beginning in September*. Teachers are encouraged to use these blueprints and assessments to guide instructional planning, have conversations with students about their performance, and to provide enrichment and remediation.

The Canvas Mastery Connect platform is used to administer the Content Mastery Assessments for Grades 3-8, and the high school tested courses for ELA, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. **English Language Arts written response questions must be graded by the teacher prior to the end of the CMA window.** Once the window closes, responses can no longer be graded. It is highly suggested that schools complete the ELA CMA's in the early part of the assessment window to provide teachers with adequate time to score the written responses.

Faculty and staff may reference the Instructure Mastery Connect Guides. All certified staff members are enrolled in a Canvas course to provide guidance and assistance with administering CMAs, using the Mastery Connect Platform to create assessments, and to create trackers to monitor student performance.

Content Mastery Assessment Courses	
ELA	Grades 3-8, 9th Grade Literature, American Literature & Composition
Mathematics	Grades 3-8, Algebra Concepts and Connections
Science	Grades 3-8, Biology, Physical Science
Social Studies	Grades 3-8, US History, 8th Grade Georgia Students

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Administering the Content Mastery Assessments

The Content Mastery Assessments should be administered by the classroom teacher or a certified designee. *Substitute teachers should not administer the Content Mastery Assessments.* Communicate the Content Mastery Assessment testing window and purpose to students and parents. Schools may use the [Parent Communication Template](#) to provide parents with information concerning assessments.

- Each Content Mastery Assessment should be administered during one class period for the following four assessments: reading, mathematics, science, and social studies.
- Schools should develop a schedule for make-up days within the testing window.
- The Content Mastery Assessment testing environment should mirror the Georgia Milestone testing environment.
  - ❖ Post "Testing in Progress" signs outside of classroom doors
  - ❖ Limit interruptions (i.e. intercom announcements, loud hallway noise).
  - ❖ Provide a well-lit classroom.
  - ❖ Arrange desks or tables to ensure that each student has adequate workspace for all required test materials.
  - ❖ Circulate the classroom to ensure that all student responses are recorded correctly.
  - ❖ If a student has an IEP, 504, or *Testing Participation Committee (TPC) form that includes classroom testing accommodations, please adhere to them.

*Testing accommodations for English Learners are found on their annual TPC forms

Mastery Connect Teacher Created Assessment Platform

The focus of the first year of using the Mastery Connect Platform was on administering the Content Mastery Assessments. This year teachers will be trained on the use of the platform to create and administer standards-based assessments to students. The platform can also be used to create common assessments that can be shared amongst grade level teams to compare student performance. A test bank of standards-based questions is available in the Mastery Connect Platform to assist in creating these assessments.

For the 2023-2024 school year, the district expectation is that each teacher **create and administer a minimum of 1 teacher created assessment** in the Mastery Connect platform **each semester.** The recommendation is that these assessments be created and administered between CMA #1 and #2 in the fall and between CMA #2 and #3 in the spring. A step-by-step guide to creating these assessments can be found in the "[How do I create formative assessments](#)" guide. Additional information can also be found in the Mastery Connect Canvas courses.

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DRC Beacon

<u>Additional Optional Assessment Platform</u>

This year, as an additional resource, teachers are able to use DRC Beacon to inform teaching and learning in 3rd through 8th grade math and ELA. This state provided, computer adaptive resource is delivered on the same platform as the Georgia Milestones. It allows teachers to get immediate and detailed results to guide their instruction. They can also be customized to assess specific content or all content in a course. The items are aligned to GA Standards and are not high stakes. The DRC Beacon Resource Page provides tutorials and resources to help teachers and school utilize the platform. If you would like additional information on how to use the testlets and comprehensive formative interim assessments, please reach out to Aletha Snowberger.

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Resources

Analyzing Student Learning Data: teacher action steps used to ensure that the gathered student learning metrics are used to inform instructional decisions

Content Mastery Assessments: Standards-based interim assessments to assess student learning of priority standards in ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies in grades 3-8 and selected HS courses.

DRC Beacon Formative: An online, computer-adaptive assessment that is aligned to the Georgia Standards of Excellence in Mathematics and English Language Arts for grades 3-8. This tool can also be used to generate a Mock Georgia Milestone Assessment.

Mastery Connect Platform: A platform available through Canvas that supports the administration of Content Mastery Assessments and provides the ability to create formative and common standards-based assessments for teachers and schools.

RCSS Data Analysis Protocol: process that is used to support data analysis

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