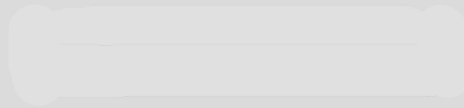




# **North Adams Community Schools**

Parent Guide to Student Assessment

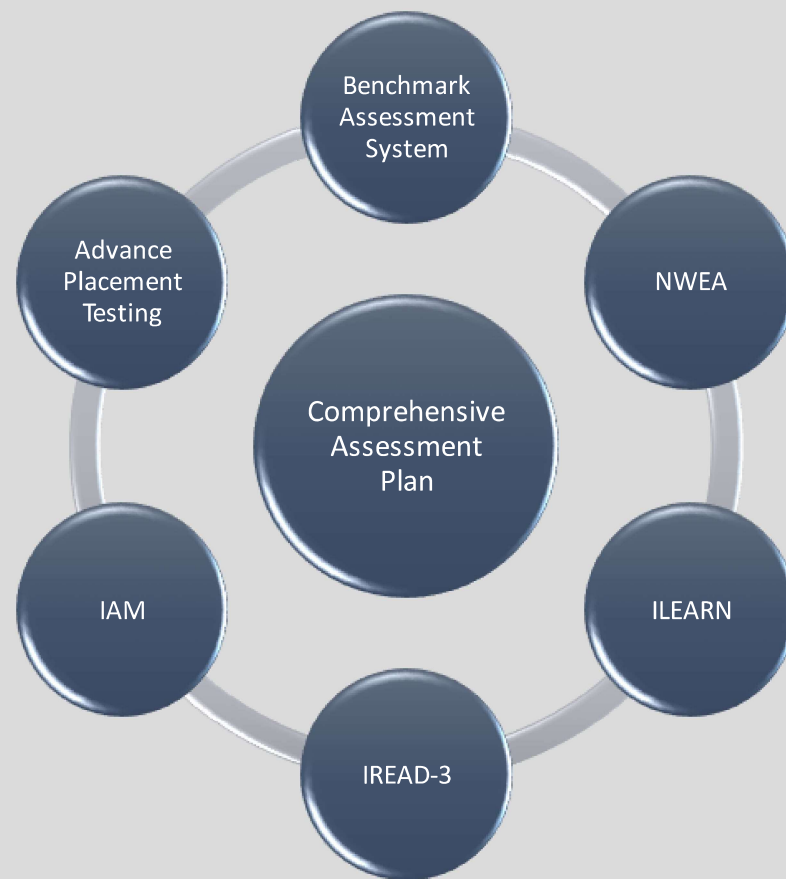


# Why Test?

- Our vision is that every student will achieve academic and personal success at North Adams Community Schools. All children have the right to learn more each day that they are in our classrooms. It is crucial to have assessment practices that measure each student's growth in learning, so that we know what we are doing is working!
- The primary purpose of assessment is to improve student learning; we use data from the assessments to drive our instruction.

# Guiding Beliefs

- Assessments that measure what is being taught tell us exactly what students are learning.
- Success is measured by looking at student learning progress over time.
- Assessments that match individual student achievement levels provide the most accurate information about student growth
- When teachers have clear and useful assessment data, classroom instruction and student learning improve.
- When parents have clear and useful information on their child's growth and progress towards achieving standards, the home-school partnership flourishes.



# Comprehensive Assessment Plan

- **NWEA MAP Assessment** - Given to KDG-8th Grades during the Fall, Winter, & Spring to measure progress in basic skills in Reading, Language Usage, Math, and Science.
- **Benchmark Assessment System** - A Reading Record given to KDG-5th Grades during the Fall, Winter and Spring to give a check point of their reading levels, reading strategies, fluency and comprehension.
- **Advanced Placement Testing** - High School end-of-course testing for Advanced Placement classes that may provide students with advanced college standing and/or college credit.
- **Classroom Assessment** - Given in all classes and all grades to evaluate student progress over the Indiana College and Career Ready Standards being taught and the class curriculum and includes quizzes, tests, projects, and participation.
- **ILEARN** - Statewide assessment of all students in 3rd - 8th Grades to measure mastery of Indiana College and Career Ready Standards from previous grades in Math & English/Language Arts, Science (4th & 6th grades only), and Social Studies (5th & 7th grades only)
- **IAM** - Assessments for all students with IEP's / disabilities who are not administered the ILEARN/ISTEP assessments.
- **IREAD-3** - A state mandated assessment to measure foundational reading standards through grade three. Based on the Indiana Academic Standards.
- **ISTEP** - Current 2020 grade 11 students will take the **ISTEP** in order to graduate and have additional opportunities to meet the graduation requirements.
- **SAT** - Current Grade 10 students (Class of 2023 and after) will take a national test (SAT) to graduate and will also have additional opportunities to meet the graduation requirements. A passing score is to be determined.

QUALITY ASSESSMENT  
=  
QUALITY INSTRUCTION



# Title I Assessment of Student Progress

- The following strategies and instruments, administered by Title I staff and classroom teachers are used to monitor and address progress toward improving literacy development.
  - NWEA Assessments and Progress Monitoring
  - IREAD (Grade 3)
  - ILEARN (Grades 3-5)
  - Reading Lexile (Grades K-5)
  - Benchmark Assessment System (Grades K-5)
  - Checklists and Informal Assessments (Grades K-5)
- Assessment information is reported to parents at the following times:
  - Title I Annual Parent Meeting
  - Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences
  - BOY, MOY, EOY NWEA Parent Reports
  - IPREAD Parent Report
  - ILEARN Parent Report
  - Title I Progress Report (as needed)
  - Additional individual written reports sent, and Parent –Teacher (Classroom and Title I) Conferences scheduled as needed

# Assessment Glossary

- **Benchmark** - A “check point” that indicates a student has mastered specific skills within an Indiana Academic Standard
- **Indiana Academic Standards** - Adopted by the Indiana State Board of Education, they describe what students should know and be able to do in English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and other content areas
- **Instructional Level** - The level of text that where a student can read and understand new information
- **Reading Record** - Reading Assessment where a teacher listens to a student read out loud and records the number and type of reading errors
- **Lexile Range** - The level of text that can be understood by the student 75% of the time
- **Mean Score** - The average score
- **Percentile** - How well the student scored in comparison to others of the same age or grade, with a range of 1% low to 99% high
- **Proficiency** - A rating that signifies that the student has learned or mastered a particular skill or set of skills
- **RIT Score** - The student’s instructional level on the NWEA MAP test; the RIT score is based on a 150 - 300 point scale and is reviewed each MAP testing to measure student growth over a period of time
- **Rubric** - A scoring system with specific descriptions of what the student must do to achieve proficiency on a given project or task