

WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF ASSESSMENT?

FORMATIVE

Formative assessment is a planned, ongoing process used to monitor student learning. Formative assessment helps students identify their strengths and weaknesses in specific concepts, and enables them to target areas that need work. It also helps teachers identify areas where students are struggling and allows them to address learning gaps immediately. Formative assessment is typically informal and can include teacher observations, student participation, class discussion, and short quizzes. Teachers may generate their own tasks to see how well students understand new concepts. Data from these forms of assessment will drive teacher planning such as providing additional support or moving students to other topics if they are ready.

INTERIM

Interim assessment typically occurs three or four times a year. Interim assessments evaluate what students have learned in relation to (1) a set of standards or academic goals and (2) a specified time. These interim assessments may serve a variety of purposes, including to identify gaps in a student's learning, to evaluate a particular educational program or instruction, or to provide an early indicator of how students will perform on the statewide summative assessment. The [NC Check-Ins](#), developed by the NC Department of Public Instruction and available for schools to use on a voluntary basis, are an example of an interim assessment. Public school units may administer different interim assessments created at the district level, or one that has been purchased from a testing vendor that may serve similar purposes at the school or district level.

SUMMATIVE

Summative assessments provide information about students' achievement of academic content standards following a longer period of instruction, such as a unit of study, a semester of learning, or a school year. Examples of summative assessments include unit tests, final course exams developed by a teacher, and an end-of-year or end-of-course assessment administered by the state. State-developed summative assessments are administered in a standardized manner so that each student across the state can demonstrate their achievement under similar testing conditions. The NC Department of Public Instruction produces [End-of-Grade \(EOG\)](#), [End-of-Course \(EOC\)](#), and [NCEXTEND1](#) assessments that measure grade- and course-level content standard expectations and give information on how well-prepared a student is for college and career.