

2017-18 Evaluation of Assessment of Course Performance

Kathy Jimenez, MSAE

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At-a-Glance

For the 2017-18 school year, Assessment, in conjunction with the Department of Teaching and Learning (T&L), developed the *Assessments of Course Performance (ACPs)* as standardized final semester tests in grades kindergarten through 12 for Mathematics, Reading/Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, English as a Second Language (ESL), World Languages, Instructional Technology, Health, Physical Education and Visual & Performing Arts courses. Overall, 135 tests were developed and seven were trans-adapted in Spanish. With nine single-semester tests and four high school tests also used for middle school students, a total of 155 ACPs were administered during the 2017–18 school year.

ACP Development

Prior to the test development phase, T&L provided outlines, called blueprints, detailing the Student Expectations (SEs) that required assessment items. In addition, T&L provided item blueprints, which directed item writers to measure specific aspects of SEs with special content to ensure item validity.

The processes of item writing, editing, item analyses, and test approvals were managed through the Office of Test Development. Tests comprised approximately three-quarters of the well-performing items from the previous year and one-quarter new or revised items. Item writing during the summer generally focused on expanding and revising test item banks. All test blueprints and formula charts were published on MyData Portal and Assessment websites at the beginning of the school year. All tests were aligned to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) using the Curriculum Map developed by each content area. After administration began, alignment pages were also published on the Assessment website, which showed the specific aspect of the SE that each item measured.

Example Item Sets for ACPs

Assessment developed a representative set of items for each ACP, or Example Items, for teachers to gain an understanding of the format and rigor of the ACPs. At the beginning of each semester, Example Items were available for download and teachers could use these items, along with the test blueprint, as guides for preparing students for the ACP. They were intended to provide an understanding of some, not all, possible approaches to assessing the given SE. Each Example Item had the correct answer as well as the content SE listed in the key.

Valid and Reliable Tests

The development of valid and reliable assessments is crucial for the evaluation of student knowledge and mastery of instructional material. Therefore, it is essential that the data provided by tests be valid and reliable. Content validity was demonstrated through the use of item and test blueprints, developed by T&L, and alignment pages, ensuring each item was aligned with the curriculum. Cronbach's alpha, a coefficient used to provide a general indicator of consistency across items within a test, ranges from 0 to 1, with 0 indicating no test reliability. Coefficients approaching 1 indicate high test reliability. Of the 155 ACPs administered, 144 ACPs had a reliability of .70 or higher, of which 95 were equal to or above .80. Eight ACPs had a reliability between .65 and .69.

Curriculum Alignment

The ACPs were designed as measures of the taught curriculum. Although every SE in the curriculum was not measured, significant SEs were identified and included in the test design process. Teachers were surveyed and asked to indicate the extent to which the ACPs successfully matched what was taught in the course. The results are presented in Table 1. Between 80% and 90% of the teachers reported courses and ACPs had a 75% to 100% match. Given that there were more SEs taught than can be appropriately measured on a 90-minute test, this level of matching was acceptable.

Table 1: ACPs Aligned with Taught Curriculum

Question	Response Category	Sem 1 (%)	Sem 2 (%)
To what extent does the ACP successfully assess (match) what is taught in this course?	100% match	35.6	25.4
	About 75% match	55.2	60.1
	About 50% match	7.5	12.0
	About 25% match	1.6	2.3
	No match at all	0.2	0.0

Scaled Scores

All 2017–18 ACP tests used scaled scores rather than raw scores. Tests aim to have at least 55% correct set to equal a scale score of 70, or passing. However, some tests have lower or higher passing percentages based on test difficulty. The 55% criterion was lowered on 51 and raised on 32 of 108 first semester tests, and lowered on 30 and raised on 14 of 47 second semester tests. Maintaining the 55% standard would have led to unreasonably high or low passing rates.

Semester One Results

Table 2 reports semester one results for the 108 ACPs administered, including the mean ACP scale score and standard deviation, and the percentage of students passing the ACP. The mean scale score ranged from a low of 67.8 (IPC) to a high of 87.7 (Spanish Kindergarten Reading), while the median scale score was 73.9. The percent of students passing the ACPs ranged from 41.0% (RLA 8 ESL Beginner) to 93.4% (Kindergarten Spanish Reading).

Table 2: Semester One ACP Results

ACP	Mean Scale Score	Scale Score SD	Percent Passing
K Math	84.2	13.8	86.5
K Spanish Math	81.5	19.1	80.0
Grade 1 Math	81.3	16.7	79.3
Grade 1 Spanish Math	79.0	15.6	73.3
Grade 2 Math	82.6	13.7	81.3
Grade 2 Spanish Math	74.4	11.3	58.3
Grade 3 Math	74.9	14.9	67.3
Grade 3 Spanish Math	69.2	13.1	53.3
Grade 4 Math	75.3	15.6	64.2
Grade 4 Spanish Math	72.8	12.0	55.2
Grade 5 Math	77.3	14.9	73.2
Grade 5 Spanish Math	69.4	14.2	50.8
Math 6	72.7	8.6	62.8
Math 6 Pre-AP	76.1	10.6	75.5
Math 7	70.8	8.6	53.4
Math 7 Pre-AP	77.6	13.0	75.8
Math 8	73.7	12.1	63.8
Algebra I Pre-AP	75.3	10.9	69.9
Algebra I	71.0	11.9	55.8
Geometry	71.3	9.0	52.6
Geometry Pre-AP	75.7	10.2	70.3
Algebra II	70.3	12.5	52.2
Algebra II Pre-AP	76.3	11.5	70.6
Pre-Calculus	69.6	11.7	52.1
Pre-Calculus Pre-AP	74.8	10.7	66.8
Math Models	69.4	10.5	49.8
K Reading	87.7	11.2	92.5
K Spanish Reading	87.7	11.5	93.4
Grade 1 Reading	81.9	12.4	87.3
Grade 1 Spanish Reading	86.1	13.3	90.4
Grade 2 Reading	79.7	14.8	75.3
Grade 2 Spanish Reading	78.2	15.4	76.1
Grade 3 Reading	69.9	13.3	53.6
Grade 3 Spanish Reading	71.6	13.5	58.7

Table continues

Table 2 con't

ACP	Mean Scale Score	Scale Score SD	Percent Passing
Grade 4 Reading	74.6	12.6	66.3
Grade 4 LA	78.6	14.2	76.0
Grade 4 Spanish Reading	71.0	12.8	58.7
Grade 4 Spanish LA	73.5	17.0	66.7
Grade 5 Reading	75.8	12.0	76.3
Grade 5 Span Reading	76.2	13.7	71.1
Reading LA 6	72.3	11.3	60.9
Reading LA 6 Pre-AP	78.0	12.6	81.3
Reading LA 7	73.9	11.0	68.4
Reading LA 7 Pre-AP	80.0	8.8	88.8
Reading LA 8	72.5	9.2	62.7
Reading LA 8 Pre-AP	77.3	9.8	79.3
English I	70.3	13.0	57.6
English I Pre-AP	75.4	12.6	74.2
English II	72.5	10.6	65.2
English II Pre-AP	76.3	9.9	76.8
English III	73.0	11.0	66.7
English IV	75.6	11.1	73.5
Grade 5 Science	73.9	16.4	67.1
Grade 5 Spanish Science	75.0	14.2	69.1
Science 6	70.7	11.4	54.4
Science 6 Pre-AP	77.0	10.6	76.3
Science 7	70.5	12.4	54.5
Science 7 Pre-AP	78.5	9.9	83.2
Science 8	72.3	10.1	59.6
Physics 8	71.1	9.6	56.6
Astronomy 8	73.2	12.3	61.2
IPC	72.1	6.9	61.8
Biology	74.9	9.3	70.9
Biology Pre-AP	69.7	8.3	48.3
Chemistry	75.6	11.5	67.9
Chemistry Pre-AP	70.5	7.0	53.9
Physics	73.1	8.1	66.5
Physics Pre-AP	67.8	8.3	42.6
Env Sys	73.8	9.7	70.4
Astronomy	69.8	8.0	51.2
Social Studies 6	69.6	10.6	48.5
Social Studies 6 Pre-AP	78.5	10.0	81.8
Texas Studies 7	70.6	10.8	51.9
Texas Studies 7 Pre-AP	79.5	12.4	78.3
US Studies 8	71.0	9.6	51.7
US Studies 8 Pre-AP	76.3	11.0	74.5
World Geography	71.4	10.2	58.8
World Geography Pre-AP	76.4	11.0	76.2
World History	70.1	11.1	53.0
World History Pre-AP	75.7	10.1	73.8

Table continues

Table 2 con't

ACP	Mean Scale Score	Scale Score SD	Percent Passing
US History	73.8	11.9	66.3
Government	72.0	9.9	58.7
Economics	75.6	10.1	74.4
Reading LA 6 ESL YR 1	72.6	10.6	54.3
Reading LA 6 ESL YR 2	71.4	10.2	52.4
Reading LA 7 ESL YR 1	72.3	11.6	48.4
Reading LA 7 ESL YR 2	75.4	12.1	62.8
Reading LA 8 ESL YR 1	70.7	10.1	41.0
Reading LA 8 ESL YR 2	69.0	12.2	46.7
English I ESOL Beg	69.8	9.7	46.3
English I ESOL Inter	70.0	10.2	42.6
English II ESOL Inter	70.4	9.1	49.0
Tech Apps	72.1	10.0	57.2
Web Design	73.4	12.6	63.8
MS Health Education 6	80.1	12.1	80.3
MS Health Education 7	77.0	12.4	75.7
MS Health Education 8	76.7	10.2	75.4
HS Health Education	76.8	10.3	75.9
Studio Art I	80.1	11.3	82.0
MS Art 1 Foundations	75.3	9.7	69.7
PE 6	76.8	10.4	73.0
PE 7 & 8	73.1	9.1	63.7
MS Varsity Band	74.5	9.0	65.6
HS Varsity Band	73.0	11.5	65.3
Spanish I	80.5	14.2	78.6
Spanish II	78.7	13.9	78.5
French I	73.0	11.5	65.3
French II	71.2	12.4	62.2
Spanish Heritage Spkr Fund	73.8	11.9	66.3

Semester Two Results

Table 3 reports semester two results for the 47 ACPs administered, including the mean ACP scale score and standard deviation, and the percentage of students passing the ACP. Fewer ACPs were administered in the second semester because many courses for grades kindergarten through eleventh required students to take a state or national test. The mean scale score ranged from a low of 68.0 (Astronomy) to a high of 83.7 (Spanish II), while the median scale score was 75.1. The percent of students passing the ACPs ranged from 47.6% (IPC) to 89.3% (Spanish II).

Table 3: Semester Two ACP Results

ACP	Mean Scale Score	Scale Score SD	Percent Passing
Geometry	72.5	9.3	57.7
Geometry Pre-AP	75.4	12.0	67.4
Algebra II	76.5	11.2	72.5
Algebra II Pre-AP	78.1	9.7	80.7
Pre-Calculus	72.4	11.0	61.9
Pre-Calculus Pre-AP	77.1	12.0	71.5
Math Models	72.3	6.9	65.0
English III	69.9	10.6	54.8
English IV	69.9	9.5	50.0
Science 6	71.2	12.2	54.7
Science 6 Pre-AP	81.4	10.9	85.3
Science 7	77.3	10.7	75.4
Physics 8	75.1	8.7	72.4
Astronomy 8	74.5	11.8	70.9
IPC	71.6	9.5	56.0
Chemistry	74.5	12.7	66.3
Chemistry Pre-AP	72.1	6.9	62.5
Physics	74.6	7.8	73.8
Physics Pre-AP	69.7	6.8	47.6
Env Sys	69.1	13.9	51.4
Astronomy	68.0	12.5	48.8
Social Studies 6	71.3	10.5	55.2
Social Studies 6 Pre-AP	77.6	11.0	80.6
Texas Studies 7	72.8	10.5	61.6
Texas Studies 7 Pre-AP	78.2	10.2	81.0
World Geography	72.0	10.4	59.6
World Geography Pre-AP	76.4	9.4	77.1
World History	70.3	12.1	54.9
World History Pre-AP	75.1	11.3	72.4
Government	70.7	12.8	54.7
Economics	72.2	12.2	58.3
Tech Apps	72.3	10.0	60.0
Web Design	75.3	12.5	68.4
MS Health Education 6	80.2	11.8	82.1
MS Health Education 7	79.1	11.9	78.5
MS Health Education 8	78.7	10.4	78.4
HS Health Education	75.5	9.3	76.2
Studio Art I	82.4	10.5	87.1
MS Art 1 Foundations	76.7	10.4	71.7
PE 6	75.7	10.7	70.8
PE 7 & 8	74.0	8.3	66.3
MS Varsity Band	78.0	9.9	79.7
HS Varsity Band	83.1	11.5	87.4
Spanish I	83.7	11.1	89.3
Spanish II	75.4	10.7	75.8
French I	75.0	10.8	72.0
French II	77.9	10.3	81.0
Spanish Heritage Spkr Fund	72.5	9.3	57.7

Course Grades

Scale score results were used in the calculation of the final semester grade for grades three through 12. For kindergarten through grade two, *ACP* scores were not factored into final semester grades. For grades three through five, *ACP* scale score results accounted for 5% of the final semester grade. Middle school results accounted for 10% of the final semester grade, while high school *ACP* scale score results accounted for 15% of the final semester grade.

Summer School ACPs

Summer school classes were provided for all students who did not pass courses during the school year. High school students who were instructed in Mathematics, Reading Language Arts (English), Science, Social Studies and Health were required to take the respective *ACP*. High school students enrolled in up to two courses and were assessed with the respective *ACPs* for each course.

The full 2017-18 report can be found at www.dallasisd.org/Page/888. For more information, please contact Program Evaluation at evaluation@dallasisd.org.

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Department of Evaluation and Assessment

H. B. Bell School Support Service Center

2909 N. Buckner Blvd.

Box 10

Dallas, TX 75228