

Visalia UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



BALANCED ASSESSMENT



I BELIEVE IN, I BELONG IN... I AM VUSD.

Assess | Adjust | Achieve



BALANCED ASSESSMENT

Assess | Adjust | Achieve

Visalia Unified empowers all educational stakeholders through a culture of data-informed decision-making. We utilize a balanced system of assessment designed to provide clear evidence of student mastery and inform the teaching and learning cycle in every Highly Effective Classroom.



VUSD
US

Universal Screeners

Universal Screeners promote equitable access to grade-level learning by identifying students who need additional support or enrichment. They provide an early “first look” within our Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) framework to ensure every student gets the support they need.



VUSD
CFA

Common Formative Assessments

Common Formative Assessments monitor student learning during instruction and guide teaching adjustments. They provide data to inform teaching as learning happens. Shared assessments created by PLC teams and administered at frequent intervals.



VUSD
BA

Benchmark Assessments - Site & District

Benchmark assessments are given at set points throughout the year (every 6–8 weeks) to track whether students are on pace to meet grade-level expectations. They highlight areas needing extra support or instructional adjustments, helping make summative results more predictable.



VUSD
SA

Summative Assessments

Summative assessments measure cumulative mastery of standards and long-term learning. Summative assessments are the “Final Check” of mastery. They evaluate student learning against Essential Standards at the conclusion of a defined instructional period.



BALANCED ASSESSMENT | Assess | Adjust | Achieve

Universal Screeners



Universal Screeners promote equitable access to grade-level learning by identifying students who need additional support or enrichment. They provide an early “first look” within our Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) framework to ensure every student gets the support they need.

Brief & Predictive | Identifies Risk Levels | Guides Tier Placement | Generates System-Level Data

Students

Universal screener results help students understand their current performance and set learning goals. The results help them understand the skills they will be working on during targeted instruction.

Teachers

Teachers analyze results to identify students who may need additional support or enrichment. The data help teachers determine which students may need Tier 2 or Tier 3 intervention and guide how students are grouped for differentiated instruction.

Parents

Parents receive information about their child’s progress toward grade-level expectations. This helps families understand whether additional support may be helpful at home or whether they should communicate with the teacher about available support.

School & District Leaders

School and district leaders use universal screener results to monitor student learning across classrooms, grade levels, and schools. The results help identify which students should receive additional support and be progress monitored, as well as where schools may need additional instructional support. Data guides decisions about professional learning, intervention resources, and system-wide improvements.

Universal Screeners Generally Administered

Beginning of the Year - Middle of Year - End of Year

US Examples*

Resources & Scheduling



Assessment & Accountability
Teaching and Learning in VUSD



VUSD School Calendar
Full Calendar - '25-'26



* 3rd Party universal screener providers are subject to change.

Note: Cadence Guide shows assessment pacing and does not represent actual testing schedules.

ASSESSMENT PACING





BALANCED ASSESSMENT | Assess | Adjust | Achieve



Common Formative Assessments

Common Formative Assessments monitor student learning during instruction and guide teaching adjustments. They provide data to inform teaching as learning happens.

Provides Immediate Feedback | Supports Student Self-Assessment | Guides Instructional Adjustments

Students

Students use common formative assessments to understand their own strengths and weaknesses, reflect on their learning journey, and set actionable personal goals.

Teachers

Teachers within their Professional Learning Community (PLC), leverage common formative assessments to identify immediate learning gaps, differentiate instruction and share effective teaching strategies to better support student learning.

Parents

Parents use common formative assessments to monitor student progress of standards mastery throughout the learning process.

School & District Leaders

School and District Leaders use common formative assessments to monitor the health of the instructional cycle, identify school and districtwide patterns in student progress, and determine where to allocate immediate coaching or professional development resources.

Common Formative Assessments Generally Administered

Daily - Weekly - Within Lessons

Resources & Scheduling



Assessment & Accountability
Teaching and Learning in VUSD



VUSD School Calendar
Full Calendar - '25-'26

CFA Examples*

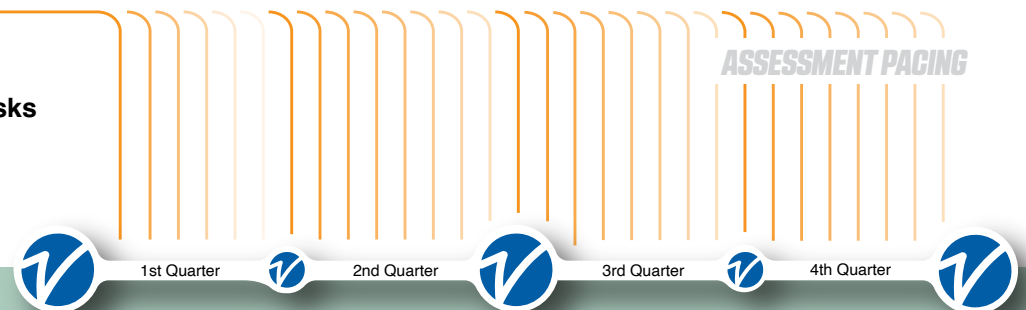
Performance Tasks



Quizzes

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BALANCED ASSESSMENT | Assess | Adjust | Achieve



Benchmark Assessments

Benchmark assessments are check-ins given at set points throughout the year (every 6–8 weeks) to track whether students are on pace to meet grade-level expectations. They highlight areas needing extra support or instructional adjustments, helping make summative results more predictable.

**Administered Check-Ins Throughout Year | Indicates Whether Students are On (or off) Track
Highlight Areas Needing Additional Support | Highlight Areas Needing Instructional Adjustments**

Students

With guidance from their teacher, students review their results to identify strengths and areas for growth. This process helps them set clear goals and focus on specific skills to improve before the next check-in.

Teachers

Teachers analyze the data to determine whether a standard needs to be retaught to the whole class or if targeted small-group instruction is needed to help specific students strengthen a particular skill.

Parents

Parents use the results to see if their child is on track for grade level and to identify strengths and areas needing support. These checkpoints support clear, data-informed conversations with teachers about student progress.

School & District Leaders

School and District leaders use this information to design targeted intervention programs and plan specialized training to ensure every classroom has the tools to succeed. By looking at these scores, leaders determine how to best distribute resources so that every student in the district receives the support they need.

Benchmark Assessments Generally Administered

Every 6 to 8 Weeks

BA Examples*

Resources & Scheduling



Assessment & Accountability
Teaching and Learning in VUSD



VUSD School Calendar
Full Calendar - '25-'26

District-driven Assessments

Curriculum-Driven Assessments

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ASSESSMENT PACING





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Summative Assessments

Visalia Unified empowers all educational stakeholders through a culture of data-informed decision-making. We utilize a balanced system of assessment designed to provide clear evidence of student mastery and inform the teaching and learning cycle in every Highly Effective Classroom.

Measure Cumulative Mastery of Standards & Long-term Learning | Final Check

Students

Students use summative assessment results to understand how well they have learned the skills taught during the course. The results help them see what they have mastered, identify areas they may still need to improve.

Teachers

Teachers use summative assessments to determine how well students have learned grade-level standards and to inform student grades. By reviewing results individually and with colleagues who teach the same course or grade level, teachers can identify common areas where students struggled and reflect on instructional practices to improve future teaching.

Parents

Parents use summative assessment results to understand how well their child is meeting grade-level expectations and progressing toward the next grade. This information helps families understand how their child is doing overall.

School & District Leaders

School and district leaders review combined summative assessment results to monitor student learning across classrooms, schools, and the district. These results help leaders identify trends over time, determine areas that may need additional support, and guide decisions about professional learning and programs to help all students meet grade-level expectations.

Summative Assessments Generally Administered

Every 6 to 8 Weeks

Resources & Scheduling



Assessment & Accountability
Teaching and Learning in VUSD



VUSD School Calendar
Full Calendar - '25-'26

District-driven Assessments Curriculum-Driven Assessments



CAST

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SA Examples*

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