



Assessment Information for Families

Washoe County School District
2026-2027

Dear Parents/Guardians/Caregivers:

Assessments, examinations, and tests are a regular and important part of a student's education. Washoe County School District strives to keep families informed and up to date on the assessments students will participate in, the results they get and how test results may be used to show a student's progress toward college and career readiness.

This document is written to introduce families to the district's program of assessments and to highlight the importance of regular practices that make the tests a student takes useful and their results an accurate measure of achievement.

In addition to classroom and individual assessments a student will take, Washoe County students may participate in various state, district, or national assessments over the course of a school year. There are no central district testing centers and for most assessments, students will test at the school where they are enrolled. The school's administrator will inform students and families on which assessments are available, participation requirements, and the dates and times of each test.

Assessments used to monitor and gauge student progress:

- Classroom assessments, including formative process
- Site-based and cross-school or district common assessments
- Diagnostic and interim assessments to help determine how to best support a student's learning
- Progress monitoring assessments for students needing academic interventions in math or reading

State and District Test Administrations:

*Check with your student's school for a list of assessments a student may take during the year.

- **Alternate assessment (NAA) in English language arts, mathematics and science** for eligible students in grades 3-8 and 11; NAA grade 11, participation required for alternative diploma
- **Career and Technical Education (CTE) assessments** for students in CTE programs
- **Civics examination** for high school students; participation required for graduation
- **College and Career Readiness assessment (ACT with Science and Writing; full battery)** for grade 11 students; participation required for standard diploma
- Cumulative semester assessments (secondary); course-specific, developed and administered at the classroom, school, or district level
- **English Language Proficiency (ELP) assessment** for eligible students in grades K-12; Nevada administers the WIDA ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS assessments

- **i-Ready Inform Reading assessment** administered seasonally (fall, winter, spring) to students in grades K-3; literacy assessment required for Nevada Read by Grade Three
- **i-Ready Inform Math and Reading assessments** administered seasonally in grades K-8; results inform data-driven decisions at the classroom, school, and district levels
- **National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)** for selected schools and students
- **Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT)** for high school age students (typically grades 10 and 11); this same assessment is used as the **National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMQT)** for participating students in grade 11; participation is optional, students must register with their high school before September for the October administration
- **Science assessments** for all students in grades 5 and 8, and taken once during High School in grade 9 or 10; administered in spring
- **Summative Smarter Balanced assessments in mathematics and English language arts** for all students in grades 3-8; administered in spring
- **Teaching Strategies GOLD**, kindergarten entry assessment (KEA) administered in fall
- Other program assessments including but not limited to Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) for students enrolled in program specific courses

These assessments directly support Our Promise and goals 1, 4, and 5 of the Washoe County School District's [Strategic Plan](#). They help make up a balanced assessment system of summative and interim tests and formative process** that provide information for teachers, students and families to help inform decisions about students' learning throughout the school year. Local assessments include informal measures and the information from them is targeted for use at the classroom or school level. State and district accountability assessments are more formal and can be used at the district and state levels, as well as at the school level, to make high-stakes decisions about curricular programs, schools and students.

**Definitions at the end of this document.

Parents/guardians/caregivers play a crucial role in ensuring that students have the best testing conditions available to them by supporting their students' efforts to study and to participate fully in classroom learning activities and by encouraging them to prepare well for upcoming assessments.

There are four other **actions that parents/guardians/caregivers can take to help shape a successful testing experience for students** on accountability and "high stakes" assessments:

1. Parents/guardians/caregivers play a significant role in the assessment process by ensuring their student is at school on days when testing occurs. If a student absolutely cannot attend school on the day of testing, contact the school at the start of the school day and before testing is to occur. Schools are penalized for not testing students even if they are absent from school the day of the test. Make-up opportunities exist for most state-mandated tests.
2. Another important item to note: both for Nevada (state) and Washoe County School District assessments, the presence of unauthorized electronic devices is strictly prohibited in any testing room. On test days, please remind students to secure their personal electronics

and other belongings in a safe place prior to entering the testing environment or sitting for a test.

3. High school students must carry valid photo identification with them when they take required state and national assessments. This is to verify that the student taking the test is the person taking the test.
4. If a student receives special services from the school (Individual Education Plan [IEP], Section 504, English Learner [EL]), they may require accommodations or supports for testing that make required assessments more accessible. Well in advance of any assessment (six or more weeks), follow up with your student's school to ensure they have a plan to provide documented accommodations and testing supports.

REPORT SUSPECTED IRREGULARITIES & SECURITY BREACHES

The primary goal of test security is to protect the integrity of the assessment program and to assure consumers of examination results that those results are accurate and meaningful. To ensure that trends in achievement results can be calculated across years and provide longitudinal data, a number of test questions must be repeated from year to year. **If any of these questions are made public and/or copied by any means or any person for their own purposes, the integrity of a test may be compromised.** This is an act of theft. If the integrity of a test is compromised, the test scores of individual students or entire classes may be invalidated, and other disciplinary actions may be taken.

Therefore, test items from secure summative and interim assessments, and tests that are not for public or general use, must not be copied, reproduced, distributed or taught in any manner.

School administrators and teachers do their best to ensure an appropriate environment in which to test students. However, mistakes do occur. You can help the school and the district by alerting them if you see or hear of anything that might be inappropriate.

Each year the Washoe County School District (WCSD) develops an assessment security and training plan to comply with Nevada statutory mandates. This plan is then made available to the Board of Trustees, school site personnel, families, and students in compliance with Nevada Revised Statutes 390.275, 390.300, and 390.350-390.430 inclusive.

The Board of Trustees delegates the responsibility for implementation of the assessment plan and reporting test irregularities to the Superintendent and the Office of Academics. Test administration irregularities or alleged breaches reported to the Nevada Department of Education are summarized and reported back to the Superintendent and the Board of Trustees.

Washoe County School District revises its training manual, [***A Primer for Testing: Policies and Professional Expectations***](#) (the *Primer*) annually. Revisions capture current legislative and Nevada

Department of Education mandates regarding test administration and security and aligns the *Primer* with the *Test Security Procedures* annually published by the Nevada Department of Education. The *Primer* includes important definitions set forth in statute and includes protocols for reporting and investigating irregularities in test administration and test security. The *Primer* is presented annually at school sites and to all personnel connected in any way with test administration.

The *Primer* includes information regarding the following topics:

1. Statement of Responsibility:

- This section defines who is responsible for test administration and security and who must receive the *Primer*.

2. Purposes of the Assessment Program:

- to encourage analysis of results and to assist in planning for instructional improvement as established by the District's strategic plan, school performance plans, and best practices for Tier 1 of Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS/RTI) for all students;
- to identify individual student needs based upon the skills and concepts tested to inform school and classroom decisions on differentiated instruction and intervention;
- to gather and report data that are accurate, meaningful, and professionally sound;
- to fulfill accountability requirements as established by the Nevada Legislature and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA);
- to track statistical data longitudinally to view trends or patterns of performance or deficiency and to set meaningful school, teacher and student growth goals and performance targets; and
- to establish comparisons among students in the district, in the state, and in the nation.

3. Notifications to Parents/Guardians:

- School's notify families in advance of the testing schedule for district and state mandated tests.
- Assessment participation and general calendar information are posted to the district website. ([Directory > Assessment > Information for Families](#))
- Results from district and state assessments are posted on the Assessment tab in Infinite Campus (student information system).
- When included in the contract, vendor-printed score reports will be mailed to the last known address of the parent or legal guardian as listed in the district's student information system.

4. Data Accuracy and Access:

- Because school and district accountability is based on assessment results, each school's clerical staff must ensure that all records are up-to-date and accurate at all times. It is important that the school have each student's accurate demographic information.
- Reporting the test and/or examination scores of individual students to anyone other than authorized school personnel, the student's parent/guardian, or the student is a violation of the privacy rights of the individual.

5. Reporting Suspected Breaches or Irregularities: **In the event of any alleged or suspected breach of test and/or examination security, unauthorized disclosure of test and/or examination content (for both state- and district-mandated assessments), or incidents of improper test administration, this sequence must be followed:**
- **The situation must be immediately reported to the school test coordinator or school principal.**
 - Within 36 hours the test coordinator or principal must, in turn, report the breach of test security to WCSD Assessment Support or the district test director.
 - The district test director or designee will immediately report test security breaches for statewide assessments to the Nevada Department of Education test security coordinator.
 - Within 14 calendar days, the school principal must complete and submit the Report of Testing Irregularity to be reviewed by the district test director or their designee.
 - Within 14 calendar days of receiving the school report of testing irregularity, the district test director or their designee will submit the report to the Nevada Department of Education.
 - Summaries of reports will be made available to the Superintendent and the Board of Trustees.
 - For all alleged breaches of test security or irregularities in test administration for state-mandated assessments, District administrators will investigate and determine appropriate consequences.

The *Primer*, including complete detailed information on reporting suspected testing security breaches, is posted on the school district's website. This document is accessed from the district's Assessment webpage ([Directory > Assessment](#)).

Thank you for the support you provide your child, the school, and the District in measuring your child's achievement.

Questions about appropriate test administration or alleged breaches of test security should be directed to the school principal and/or to the Washoe County School District Assessment Support help desk at 1.775.348.0248.

****Definitions:**

- Summative Assessments* – federal, state, District, and classroom assessments given at a point in time to measure and monitor student learning. They provide feedback to educators, students, parents/guardians/caregivers, and community members and are used to make adjustments in instructional programs, report student progress, identify and place students, and grade students. They are assessments *of* learning.
- Interim Assessments* – assessments designed to coordinate with large-scale state assessments and administered at defined intervals—to gauge student progress. An interim test is one that is typically administered 2-4 times during the school year to measure students' status with respect to mastery of important curricular outcomes. They can be assessments *of* or *for* learning.
- Formative Process* – a deliberate process used by teachers and students during instruction that provides actionable feedback used to adjust ongoing teaching and learning strategies to improve students' attainment of curricular learning targets/goals.