

Rock Ridge Elementary School Assessment Policy

The most recent date for reflection and review of this document was on Monday, September 21, 2026 during our Professional Learning Community.

Philosophy & Purpose: Assessment at Rock Ridge Elementary is an ongoing, collaborative process designed to inform instruction, foster student agency, and reflect International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP) standards. Assessment provides meaningful feedback to students, teachers, and families to support continuous inquiry, reflection, and academic growth aligned with Douglas County School District and Colorado Academic Standards.

Objectives of Assessment

- **Inform Instruction:** Guide data-driven decisions and differentiate learning to meet individual needs.
- **Empower Learners:** Develop metacognition, self-reflection, and student ownership of learning goals.
- **Track Growth:** Monitor individual progress over time through conceptual understanding and skill acquisition.
- **Evaluate Program Design:** Measure the effectiveness of inquiry units, teaching strategies, and school-wide curriculum alignment.

Types of Assessment

- **Formative Assessment (*Assessment FOR and AS Learning*):** Continuous, low-stakes strategies used during the learning process to inform instruction and guide student reflection.
 - *Tools:* Observations, anecdotal notes, teacher-student conferring, self- and peer-assessments, exit tickets, math journals, dynamic discussions, and check-ins.
- **Summative Assessment (*Assessment OF Learning*):** Culminating tasks designed for students to demonstrate consolidated understanding of central ideas and standards at the conclusion of a unit or reporting period.
 - *Tools:* PYP Exhibition (Grade 6), unit of inquiry projects, performance tasks, rubric-scored writing anchors, end-of-unit math assessments, and oral/multimedia presentations.
- **Mandatory Diagnostic & District/State Assessments:**
 - **State Assessments:** CMAS (Grades 3–6 ELA & Math; Grade 5 Science; Grade 4 Social Studies).
 - **Diagnostic Benchmarks:** i-Ready Math and Reading diagnostics; Colorado READ Act-aligned literacy screeners.
 - **District Compliance:** Standardized assessments mandated by the Douglas County Body of Evidence guide.

Recording & Student Portfolios

Assessments and reflections are systematically collected to document growth across all six Units of Inquiry, core content areas, and Specials.

- **Digital Portfolios:** Every student (Grades K–6) maintains a continuous portfolio (e.g., Seesaw, Google Workspace, or IB LMS) that transitions from year to year.
- **Portfolio Documentation Requirements:**
 - **Learner Profile:** Self-reflections on IB Learner Profile attributes submitted each trimester.
 - **Units of Inquiry:** Key summative task or reflection piece from each unit (6 pieces annually).
 - **Core & Specials:** Selected growth pieces per trimester across Literacy, Math, Art, Music, PE, and STEM/Spanish.
 - **Student Voice:** Each entry includes student reflection on why the artifact was selected and the learning it demonstrates.

Reporting & Communication

- **Progress Reports:** Elementary Progress Reports (EPRs) are issued at the end of each semester and detail academic achievement, transdisciplinary skills, and Learner Profile development.
- **Conferences:**
 - **Fall:** Parent-Teacher Conferences.
 - **Spring (Grades K–2):** Student-Led Progress Conferences (w/teacher support).
 - **Spring (Grades 3–6):** Student-Led Conferences that highlight portfolio growth and culminate in the 6th Grade PYP Exhibition.

Policy Review & Alignment: Teachers collaboratively build rubrics and assessment tools with student input whenever appropriate. The Rock Ridge staff reviews and refines this assessment policy twice annually, midway through the first and second semesters, to maintain alignment with current IB PYP *Principles into Practice* and district guidelines.