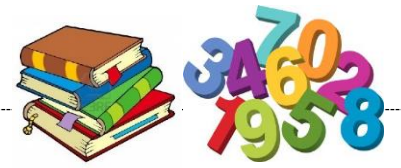


# Common Assessments Overview

Visit >> <https://www.washoeschools.net/Page/15650>



## Purpose

WCSD is committed to the PLC process to ensure that all students learn at high levels through rigorous grade level instruction. It is important to systematically collect evidence of learning to determine areas of need, resources, interventions, and/or extensions that best support student learning. To support the PLC process, teachers will utilize common district developed and curriculum-based assessments for English Language Arts and mathematics. These common assessments are aligned to WCSD essential standards, a subset of the Nevada Academic Content Standards (NVACS). District common assessments are to be used formatively, contributing critical data and student work samples for grade level collaborative meetings. Student scores from these common assessments are not intended for teacher evaluation.

## General Information

District common assessments are provided for teachers to preview, administer, and analyze student learning. Student work, results, and self-reflections will be used by educators and students to inform next steps in learning. School sites may request support from the Department of Assessment and/or the Department of Curriculum and Instruction to assist with the PLC process, backwards planning, SchoolCity (navigation, report generation), student self-reflection, teacher-student feedback, data analysis, and intervention and extension planning.

## Professional Learning Communities (PLC)

Common assessment and results will be used by collaborative teams to address four guiding questions:

- 1. What do **WE** want students to know and be able to do?**
  - View the assessments prior to the instructional window.
  - Calibrate instructional plans to the grade level standards and assessment expectations.
  - Adjust and scaffold Tier 1 instruction and support to meet the needs of students.
- 2. How will **WE** know if students have learned it?**
  - Access SchoolCity reports (i.e., Student Response, Question Group, Standard Analysis, Item Analysis).
  - Share and analyze data with your collaborative team shortly after each administration.
  - Identify strengths and needs for each student.
- 3. How will **WE** respond when some students do not learn?**
  - Group students by common mistakes, misconceptions, and errors.
  - Plan and deliver instructional/intervention strategies to address targeted student mistakes, misconceptions, and errors.
- 4. How will **WE** extend the learning for students who are already proficient?**
  - Group students by areas of strengths.
  - Plan and deliver instructional/extension opportunities for students.

## Logistics

- **Assessment Windows.** Testing windows follow pacing and are detailed on assessment calendars. Resources are posted on the WCSD website and can be accessed through each grade level/subject area Microsoft Teams Teacher Community.
- **Assessments in SchoolCity.** ELA and math assessments are available on the SchoolCity platform. Visit the [WCSD Common Assessment webpage](#) for SchoolCity help documents and on-demand training videos.
- **Assessment Administration.** Common assessments in SchoolCity may be given online, paper/pencil, or a combination of the two (see below). Required assessments are machine scored and student results will be immediately available to teachers.
  - **Paper/Online.** Students complete the test on a printed test copy. Students transcribe (enter) their answers directly into the SchoolCity platform.
  - **Online.** Students take the test directly on the SchoolCity platform. \*Students should have scratch paper or a copy of the printed test to record their work.
  - **Paper/Pencil.** Students complete the test on a printed test copy. Answers are bubbled in on a printed answer sheet. Teachers score the answer sheets through GradeCam (Elementary, MS) or a scanner (MS only).