

Update to assessment options as of June 1, 2015.

Note: Information about selecting other assessment options can be found in this [guidance document](#).

DPS INTERIM ASSESSMENTS

DPS will outsource the development of district interims for grades 3-8 for math and literacy in 2015-16. Interims will include a new assessment platform to administer online tests, score assessments and access results. The platform will also include item banks that allow teachers to create their own small-scale assessments aligned to the Colorado Academic Standards, including the Common Core.

The vendor name will be released once negotiations are final in mid-summer.

Interim Windows

Interims will be administered three times throughout the year at the end of units of study. The three windows will allow for shorter and more instructionally focused assessments. Schools will have additional flexibility on assessment windows to ensure alignment between the assessments and curricular pacing at the school. The purpose of these assessments is to progress monitor and use data to adjust instruction.

End-of-Year Assessments

End-of-year assessments for grades 3-8 will be separate from interims throughout the year and will be replaced with small-scale performance-based tasks. Tasks will be embedded in the curriculum and aligned with district-developed, premade SLOs that will be available at the beginning of the year. School leaders will have the option of administering these end-of-year performance tasks while declining other interims.

School Leaders who Opt In to District Interims

- Will receive guidance and support from ARE and DoTS before, during and after assessment administration. This includes training and support for SALs and STRs.
- Will have full access to the interim assessments, item banks and a new assessment platform.
- The vendor name will be released once negotiations are final.

School Leaders who Decline District Interims

While school leaders are not required to opt in to the district option, guidelines must be followed in choosing alternative resources:

- School leaders are required to attend a [consultation with your IS](#) and a member of ARE.
- ARE recommends selecting assessments that are aligned to the curriculum you are teaching
- Schools will need to prepare data for ongoing conversations with their IS on the progress their students are making. *Note: data may not be available in Schoolnet.*
- Schools will need to publish alternative assessment strategy and calendar to parents based on [state legislation \(page 2\)](#).
- Administration and support of assessments and materials will be school-based as DoTS and ARE will not have the capacity to support printing, technology or administration. *Note: This will be an additional lift for SALs and STRs.*

STATE REQUIRED ASSESSMENTS FOR K-3 STUDENTS

Early Readiness - TS Gold

All schools are required to administer TS Gold to fulfill the early readiness requirement for kindergarten students:

- Teachers must submit scores on all six areas of learning (Social Emotional, Physical, Language, Cognitive, Literacy & Mathematics), plus English Language Acquisition where applicable, for all students within the first 60 days of school.
- School leaders have options for submitting progress-monitoring documentation.
 - Schools are now only required to submit documentation for students who fall below benchmark in any of the six domains during the initial screening.
 - Documentation needs to be shared with your IS and updated throughout the year.
 - Documentation is no longer required through TS Gold. Schools may still use TS Gold but can create their own documentation process. Schools must prove they have a plan to progress monitor and document students who fall below benchmark.

READ Act – DRA or IStation

All schools are required to administer assessments that fulfill the READ Act state requirements. School leaders may choose between the district options or state-approved options.

Opting In to READ Act Assessments

- DPS will support DRA2/EDL2 and IStation in 2015-2016.
- Districts must administer a READ Act assessment to kindergarten students in the first 60 days of school to use the data for the literacy component of TS Gold.
- If a student scores at grade-level in the fall, the district is not required to administer the approved assessment for the remainder of the year. Schools still have the option of assessing these students if deemed necessary.
- Schools must administer a diagnostic assessment to kindergarten students identified as Significantly Below Grade Level (SBGL) within 60 days after their READ Act interim assessments to guide the READ Plan creation. DPS supports the use of STAR Early Literacy and STAR Reading as the diagnostic assessment.
- If a kindergarten student is SBGL, the READ plan must be a component of the Readiness plan. ARE will provide further details before the new school year begins.

Declining READ Act District Option

If school leaders decline district options by deciding not to use DRA or IStation, the following state requirements become non-negotiable and are the responsibility of the school:

- All READ Act administration timelines and requirements must be met with fidelity.
- Schools with ELLs must have a CDE-approved Spanish assessment (initial screener).
- Schools must select the same vendor for English and Spanish from the [list of CDE approved assessments only](#).
- The screener and the confirmation/verification assessment need to be same tool.

Data Submission for Alternate Assessment Option

- For school leaders who decline the district option, schools submit assessment data for all students in fall, students missing data in the mid-year and students not at grade-level in spring windows to ARE via one of two options:
 - *Option 1 (preferred)*: With your testing vendor, set up an automated system to extract data directly to ARE. Schools provide a direct contact from vendor (name, phone/email).
 - *Option 2*: Set up an administration account for a READ Act Coordinator on your test vendor website to extract the data directly.
- In vendor contract, ensure that Denver Public Schools receives extracts of all vendor assessment data for each administration of the assessment.
- In vendor contract, ensure all of the following data elements are provided in data extracts from vendor:
 - DPS school name, DPS school number (3 digit), assessment name, assessment administration date, assessment scores and proficiency bands/benchmarks, student last name, student first name, correct 6-digit DPS student ID number.
- READ Act SAL corrects student demographic data in vendor website at ARE's request.

