DPS LOCAL ASSESSMENTS OVERVIEW FOR GRADES 3-8

Grades 3-8 are required to administer a pre-built unit or interim assessment from a vendor or curricular material; a commonly developed interim assessment; or a computer adaptive assessment in literacy and math to all students in grades 3-8, at their enrolled grade level, **three times** per year, once during each trimester (by: November 13; February 26; June 3). There are two opt-in options for local assessments that the district will support in 2017-18:

1. Option 1: Utilize Prebuilt Assessments and/or Create Your Own Formative Assessments using Illuminate DnA.
2. Option 2: Utilize Interims Provided by ANet in grades 3-8 for math and literacy. These assessments will be developed by the Achievement Network (ANet) and will be aligned to the DPS Scope & Sequence.

Please Note:
- Decisions cannot be changed after the final flexibility deadline of Friday, February 3, 2017.
- Schools must select one assessment option for their school. Schools cannot select different options based on content and/or grade level.
- DPS has partnered with Illuminate Data and Assessment for the platform, as well as Key Data Systems and Certica for English and Spanish item banks. Therefore, the Illuminate platform and KDS/Certica item banks will be available to all DPS schools, regardless of assessment choice. Prebuilt assessments and the support of an assessment specialist will only be available to those schools that opt-in to Option1: Illuminate DnA as their grades 3-8 Local Assessment option.

OPTION 1— Illuminate DnA - Utilize Prebuilt Assessments and/or Create Your Own Formative Assessments

Creating your own formative assessments is a great way to diagnose where your students are at during a given point in time and progress monitor throughout the school year. Using item banks in Illuminate, teachers are able to pull standards-aligned items to create quizzes, classroom assessments, common formative assessments and interims that are aligned to the content and standards taught. Teachers can also utilize pre-built assessments, which include assessments aligned with DPS adopted curriculum (if the format is conducive to uploading), interim assessments by Key Data Systems, and supplemental assessments aligned with the DPS Scope & Sequence. Supplemental assessments are additional resources created collaboratively across teams in ARE and Curriculum & Instruction. Supplemental assessments will be available for grades 3-8 literacy and math (available in Spanish for grades 3-5 in literacy and 3-8 for math), grades 4 and 7 social studies, and grades 5 and 8 science.

School Leaders who opt in to Illuminate will:
- Receive guidance and support from ARE and DoTS before, during and after assessment administration. This includes training and support for school leaders, teachers, SALs and STRs.
- Need to outline a school assessment strategy in order for ARE to provide appropriate training and support for school staff.
- Have full access to **all** prebuilt assessments and item banks in Illuminate.

FAQs for Illuminate DnA – Utilize Prebuilt Assessments and/or Create Your Own Formative Assessments
- *Can I test outside of the district's assessment windows?*
  - There are not set windows for local assessments in 2017-18. Schools need to administer one assessment, per trimester (by: November 13; February 26; June 3).
- *Can students test off of grade level? (ex: 7th grader takes 8th grade assessment)*
  - Yes. However, we suggest that at least three of the assessments you administer during the year are on grade level standards. Students will be assessed on grade level standards at the end of the year (CMAS: PARCC). Additional formative assessments may be administered off of grade level, to show growth or identify where student-level understanding lies.
- *Can I use this assessment data for grades or report cards?*
  - This depends on the type of assessment that is created and administered. If the data is formative and used to guide instruction, then it cannot be used for grades. If the assessment is developed as an end of unit, end of semester, or end of course test and is summative, then the data can be used for a grade. Data from "interims" is formative in nature and should be used to adjust instruction and not for grades.

OPTION 2—ANet Interims and Platform

District Interims Provided by ANet will include ANet's assessment platform to administer online interims, score assessments and access results for math and literacy in grades 3-8. Assessments will also be available in Spanish in grades 3-5 for literacy and in grades 3-8 for math. The platform will also include a quiz tool that allows teachers to create their own small-scale assessments.

School leaders who opt in to ANet will:
- Receive guidance and support from ARE and DoTS before, during and after assessment administration. This includes training and support, co-facilitated by ANet, for school leaders, teachers, SALs and STRs.
- Have full access to the interim assessments, quiz tool and assessment platform provided by ANet.

FAQs for District Interims Provided by ANet
- *Can I test outside of the district's assessment windows?*
  - There are no set windows for interims in 2017-18. Schools need to administer one interim, per trimester (by: November 13; February 26; June 3). Opt-In schools **cannot** administer A4 interims, as this is not a part of our district assessment strategy.
- *Are interims optional?*
  - No. By opting in, you are required to administer all three interims. Due to contracts with the vendor, there is a cost associated with each interim that the district is paying per school.

- *Can I assess my second graders using ANet?*
  - This is not a part of our district assessment strategy. If you select to administer 2nd grade interims at your school, you will need to identify that during your flexibility decisions. Please note that 2nd grade interims are **not** customized for DPS, whereas in grades 3-8 interims are aligned to DPS Scope & Sequence.
- *Can my students take interims via paper & pencil?*
  - No. This is an online assessment. Only students with specific accommodations will receive paper/pencil options, per IEP/504/etc.
- *Can I just use the quiz tool within ANet, and not the interims?*
  - No. You will opt-in to interims provided by ANet and receive the quiz tool as a resource. The quiz tool does not have enough items at varying levels of difficulty to allow schools to create valid and reliable interims.
- *Can I use interim data for grades or report cards?*
  - Interims Provided by ANet cannot be used for grades and should not be published on report cards. Please review the purpose of the interims, as they are for instructional use only.
- *Will the ANet Interim assessments be better aligned next year?*
  - Due to budget constraints, ANet assessments will not undergo any further customization.
- *Can students test off of grade level? (ex: 7th grader takes 8th grade assessment)*
  - No. Students must take interims at their enrolled grade level. They will be assessed on grade level standards at the end of the year (state assessments). Other formative assessments may be administered off grade level to show growth or identify where student-level understanding lies.
- *What if I'm interested in an ANet full partnership?*
  - There is an additional cost associated with this service. To learn more about getting an ANet coach to support the needs of your school and prioritize strategies throughout the teaching and learning cycle to improve instruction, please contact Kathryn Dieck or Laura Brinkman at ANet.

** Due to the pricing structure of ANet and budget constraints, 2017-2018 is most likely the **last** year District Interims provided by ANet will be offered as an opt-in option for grades 3-8.*

IMPORTANT NOTE: Declining District-Supported Options
While school leaders are not required to opt-in to the district options, guidelines must be followed in choosing alternative resources:
- School leaders are required to attend a meeting with their IS and a member of ARE during spring 2017, after submitting Flexibility decisions. This consultation guide may be used during the meeting.
- 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. This needs to be in a format that can be manipulated (not a PDF). It is up to the school leader and IS to define this process, format and frequency.
- Schools will need to publish alternative assessment strategy and calendar to parents based on state legislation (C.R.S. 22-7-1013.8 and C.R.S. 22-7-1013.7).
- 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.*

Flexibility 2017-18 District Interim Assessment Options		
	ANet Interim Assessments	Illuminate DnA (Utilize Prebuilt Assessments and/or Create Your Own)
Assessment Resources		
Standards-aligned assessments (formative and summative assessments and/or tasks) for grades K-12. These can be created at the school using the district provided item bank. Coaching is provided.		X
Curriculum-aligned assessments for grades 3-8 in English Language Arts and Math which are closely tied to the curriculum and help determine mastery of standards that have been taught	X	
Flexibility to administer district assessments at the end of a module or unit in order to ensure alignment between the assessment and curricular pacing	X	X
Assessment data is used to guide instruction and not for accountability purposes	X	X
Data analysis and reporting	X	X
Assessment Support and Coaching		
Administration and scheduling support (including SAL training)	X	X
Training for school leaders and teachers on how to develop interim assessments with the item bank		X
Consultations available as requested by schools. This includes coaching on assessment strategy, frequency of administration, how to use data to improve instruction, etc.	X	X
Training for school leaders and teachers on how to navigate the platform	X	X
Training for school leaders and teachers on how to use and interpret the data	X	X
Assessment resources and tools that are standards aligned and assessment agnostic (standards maps)	X	X
Technology Support		
Online Assessment platform for district interims	X	X
Platform and online administration for teacher-created quizzes	X	X
Platform and paper administration for teacher-created quizzes	X	X
Teacher Portal as access point for assessment content and administration	X	X
Single-sign-on to DPS provided resources	X	X
Access to district menu of approved academic technology – district-negotiated Data Sharing Agreements (student data privacy protected and FERPA compliant) options to propose use of supplementary instructional tools	X	X
End user device compatibility support	X	X
Wireless and bandwidth support for school selected applications	X	X
Compliance Support		
Ensuring we meet all the requirements for C.R.S. 22-7-1013.8 and C.R.S. 22-7-1013.7 (HB15-1323) and are publicly posting for parents/community (publishing assessment calendars, timelines, purpose, length of each assessment, how parents can opt-out, mode of assessment (paper/pencil or online).	X	X*
All schools will need to comply with the Consent Decree.	X	Contact your ELA Support Partner for assistance
Pre-Built Assessments and Items will be available in Spanish.	X	X
Accommodations--All accommodations must be met, per students' IEPs/504s.	X	X
Processing Center will support all paper/pencil needs for accommodations (assessments will be online unless accommodations are needed).	X	X
*A template will be made available for schools to utilize. Schools will be responsible for completing and posting the templat e.		