

Grades 9-12 Local Assessment FAQ

DPS LOCAL ASSESSMENTS OVERVIEW FOR GRADES 9-12

In DPS, grades 9-12 have the option of using any or all of the following: common formative assessments, course tests, or unit assessments.

- Common formative assessments are collaboratively designed or endorsed by grade or course level teams of teachers and administered to all students in a grade or course at about the same time during the instructional cycle. Samples include, but are not limited to, an exit ticket, a quiz, a performance task, or an interim.
- High school course tests are designed to assess how well students are progressing toward proficiency on the *Big Ideas* taught in the course throughout the school year, and serve as midterms and finals. The test results will also provide detailed information to assist school staff in meeting the instructional needs of their students. All of the tests are created and reviewed by DPS teachers, facilitators, and central office staff.
- High school unit assessments were developed and written by teachers for the units in the DPS Scope & Sequence. They are meant to be used as a summative assessment for each unit. The unit assessments have a dual purpose of measuring students' achievement of standards and informing instruction by sampling important learning goals throughout a unit AND assisting in the understanding of the necessary level of rigor students should attain within the standards.

Grades 9-12 have one opt-in option in 2017-18 to support the implementation of this assessment strategy. Schools that do not select this opt-in option **will not have access to DPS-created high school course assessments, unit assessments, or any other prebuilt assessments in 2017-18**, as these resources will only be available in Illuminate.

1. Option 1: Utilize Prebuilt Assessments and/or Create Your Own Formative Assessments using Illuminate DnA.

Please Note:

- Decisions cannot be changed after the final flexibility deadline of Friday, February 3, 2017.
- Schools with grades 6-12 may select one assessment option for grades 6-8 and one assessment option for grades 9-12. These may be the same, or different. Schools cannot select different options based on content areas (i.e. opt-in for literacy and decline to opt-in for math).
- 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 (including DPS-created high school course tests and unit assessments) and the support of an assessment specialist will only be available to those schools that opt-in to Option 1: Illuminate DnA as their grades 9-12 Local Assessment option.

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

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. By opting-in, teachers can also utilize [prebuilt assessments](#), including high school course and unit assessments. **When opting-in, schools are committing to participate in trainings on the**

Illuminate platform, facilitated by the Assessment Resource and Support team in ARE. Schools that decline to opt-in will not receive access to [prebuilt assessments](#), including high school course and unit assessments.

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

- *Are schools required to administer high school course and unit assessments?*
 - No. However, schools that wish to utilize these DPS-created assessments will only receive access to them by opting-in to Illuminate.
- *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.
- *Can Pathways schools opt-in to Illuminate for grades 9-12?*
 - Yes. However, they will not receive funds for declining to opt-in, as they utilize district-funded NWEA MAP Assessments.
- *Why can school leaders split their decisions for grades 6-12, but not for grades 3-8?*
 - Since there is only one opt-in option for grades 9-12 and two opt-in options for grades 3-8, it would narrow the options available to grades 6-8 in a 6-12 school, by forcing a 6-12 school to select only one assessment option for their entire school. Additionally, K-8 schools are considered a single school in Infinite Campus, whereas 6-12 schools are considered 2 schools in IC.

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 should 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 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 Option for Grades 9-12

	Illuminate DnA (Utilize Prebuilt Assessments and/or Create Your Own)
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
High School Course and Unit Assessments -created by DPS	X
Data analysis and reporting	X
Administration and scheduling support (including SAL training)	X
Training for school leaders and teachers on how to develop 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
Training for school leaders and teachers on how to navigate the platform	X
Training for school leaders and teachers on how to use and interpret the data	X
Assessment resources and tools that are standards aligned and assessment agnostic (standards maps)	X
Online Assessment platform	X
Platform and online administration for teacher-created quizzes	X
Teacher Portal as access point for assessment content and administration	X
Single-sign-on to DPS provided resources	X
Access to district menu of approved academic technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - district-negotiated Data Sharing Agreements (student data privacy protected and FERPA compliant) options to propose use of supplementary instructional tools 	X
End user device compatibility support	X
Wireless and bandwidth support for school selected applications	X
All schools will need to comply with the Consent Decree.	Contact your ELA Support Partner for
Pre-Built Assessments and Items will be available in Spanish (select content areas and grade levels)	X
Accommodations--All accommodations must be met, per students' IEPs/504s.	X
Processing Center will support all paper/pencil needs for accommodations (assessments will be online unless accommodations are needed).	X
<i>*A template will be made available for schools to utilize. Schools will be responsible for completing and posting the template.</i>	