

ALL PRINCIPALS/APs/TEACHERS: Optional District Formative Assessments

*Category: For Your Information*

**Audience:** All Principals/APs, All Teachers

Due Date: n/a

Meeting Date: n/a

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To provide principals, assistant principals and teachers with updates and reminders regarding formative assessments by subject area.

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- The Division of Academics is reminding principals, assistant principals, and teachers that available district and/or publisher produced formative assessments NOT listed on the District's Master Testing Calendar are OPTIONAL.
- Said optional assessments are provided in order for teachers to be able to quickly assess student progress at various points throughout the academic year and are considered best practice.
- Below is information regarding optional formative assessment by subject area.
- **Elementary English Language Arts**
  - The McGraw-Hill Wonders e-assessments are optional and available through McGraw-Hill ConnectEd for grades 2-5.
  - The purpose of the e-assessments is to monitor student achievement on instructed grade-level English Language Arts standards. Data from the e-assessments should be used to make informed decisions regarding remediation and/or enrichment during whole group and/or small group instruction.
  - The weekly e-assessments are available for Grades 2-5 and include many of the same type of sample response mechanisms found on the computer-based Florida Standards Assessments. Please refer to Weekly Briefing #19746 for creating and editing directions for e-assessments.
  - McGraw-Hill assessments are available in two formats: electronic (e-assessment) and paper-based. Teachers may choose to administer the version that meets the needs of their students and allows them to inform instruction. The paper-based version and the electronic version of the weekly assessment assess the same grade-level standards.
  - The electronic version provides students with opportunities to practice technology-enhanced item types (TEIs) in preparation for the Florida Standards Assessment.
  - It is recommended that the weekly e-assessments be administered every two weeks instead of weekly to ensure the standard taught has been covered in its entirety.
- **Mathematics**
  - District topic assessments are developed in grades K-Algebra 2, to assist teachers in checking for students' understanding of instructed standards, as such, regular administration of the mathematics topic assessments is highly recommended. Topic assessments are available in both computer based (CBT) and paper based versions and includes technology-enhanced item types (TEI's) (where applicable) similar to the types found on the Florida Standards Assessment.
  - Data from the topic assessments should be used by teachers to make informed decisions regarding the remediation and/or enrichment needs of their students.
  - Information regarding the recommended topic assessment administration timelines can be found in the Pacing Guide topics for each grade level/course.
  - Topic assessments are housed in Gateway 2 Data (G2D), and can be accessed at <https://tg.dadeschools.net>.
- **Science**

- Science assessments monitor student achievement on instructed science standards.
- Quarterly assessments for grades K – 4, M/J Comprehensive Science 1 and 2, Physical Science, Chemistry and Physics are released at the end of each nine-week grading period.
- Topic/unit aligned assessments for grade 5, M/J Comprehensive Science 1, 2 and 3 (Regular and Advanced) and Biology 1 are available through the Department of Science and accessible through G2D.
- Below are links that provide assessment support and the testing window information for Science topic/unit assessments:
  - Elementary:  
<http://science.dadeschools.net/elem/InstructionalResources/assessment.html>
  - Middle grades:  
<http://science.dadeschools.net/middleSchool/InstructionalResoucesMS.html>
  - Senior High:  
<http://science.dadeschools.net/highSchool/assessments.html>
- **Social Sciences**
  - Mini assessments have been developed for 7th grade Civics and 11th grade U.S. History.
  - Data from Social Sciences Mini Assessments should be used by teachers to make informed decisions about the progress of student mastery of EOC assessed benchmarks and used to plan effective Differentiated Instruction lessons.
  - Mini Assessment Timelines and Content Focus Reports can be found in the pacing guide section for 7th grade Civics and 11th grade U.S. History on the Department of Social Sciences' website: <http://socialsciences.dadeschools.net>.
  - All Social Sciences Mini Assessments are administered through G2D.
- Should you have questions or need additional information, please contact the Executive Director for the appropriate content area, listed below:
  - *Mr. Robert Brazofsky*, Executive Director – Social Sciences; 305-995-1982
  - *Ms. Vanessa De la Pena*, Executive Director - Elementary English Language Arts; 305-995-3122
  - *Dr. Ava D. Rosales*, Executive Director – Science; 305-995-1939
  - *Ms. Michelle White*, Executive Director – Mathematics; 305-995-1939

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**Contact:** Ms. Lisette Alves ( 305 995-4202 )

**Department:** Division of Academics