

ASSESSMENT CALENDAR

What Families Should Expect this School Year

OVERVIEW

Assessments are design to act as checkpoints, not roadblocks, offering a clear snapshot of where each student is on their learning journey. They help teachers tailor instruction to meet individual needs, ensure students get the right support at the right time, and celebrate meaningful progress throughout the year. This assessment calendar serves as a tool to keep families, students, and educators aligned as partners in academic growth. It outlines the district and external assessments that will take place throughout the school year. There are three types of assessments: Classroom, District, and External.

Classroom Assessments	District Assessments	External Assessments
These assessments guide daily teaching, provide quick feedback, and check immediate understanding. <i>Examples: Exit tickets, quizzes, teacher created tests</i>	These assessments measure learning across unified curriculum units and monitor progress districtwide. <i>Examples: District assessments, District Summative Assessments</i>	These assessments evaluate long-term growth, benchmark against state and national standards, and meet accountability requirements. <i>Examples: Measure of Academic Progress (MAP), Maryland System of Testing Academic Readiness (MSTAR)</i>

Do

- **DO use the calendar to plan around key dates.** Try to avoid scheduling non-urgent medical appointments, extended family trips, or early dismissals on scheduled assessment days.
- **DO focus on effort, not just scores.** Framing tests as opportunities to “show what you know” helps reduce testing anxiety and promotes a growth mindset.
- **DO maintain normal routines.** Ensure your child gets a good night’s sleep and a nutritious breakfast before testing days. Consistency builds confidence.
- **DO communicate with teachers.** Communicate with the teacher regarding any questions about the assessment before and/or after the assessment.

Don't

- **DON'T treat test days like high-stress events.** Avoid overemphasizing tests as “make or break” moments; remember that assessments are checkpoints for learning and not final judgments.
- **DON'T alter sleeping or daily schedules drastically.** Late-night cramming sessions or sudden changes in routine often backfire and increase fatigue.
- **DON'T compare your child's timeline or progress to others.** Every student grows at their own pace, and assessment data is used to support individual learning needs.

Monthly Assessment Calendars by Grade Level

Please use the document titled [Monthly Assessment Calendars by Grade Level](#) to access the assessment calendars.