

# Teachers' Guide to Periodic Assessments

The Department of Education's Periodic Assessments are designed to give regular, timely feedback on your students' strengths and weaknesses to help guide instruction and increase student achievement. They also provide an early indicator of student performance on State Tests and measure student progress toward success in high school and beyond.

The Periodic Assessment tools include high-quality assessments, online reports to help analyze students' results, and instructional resources tied to student performance. The program was designed with help from New York City educators and is continuously improved based on school feedback. The DOE does not use students' Periodic Assessment scores to evaluate students, teachers, or schools.

## How Periodic Assessments Can Help You in the Classroom

- Give you timely information about student performance so you can target instruction to meet the learning needs of every child: dynamic reports allow you to analyze student scores, help identify trends within your class and across classes in your school, and facilitate grouping and other approaches to differentiated instruction.
- Provide an early indicator of student performance on standards assessed on State Tests so you can work with students to address areas of need.
- Provide an objective measure of student performance and growth to share with families so you can work together to keep students on track for success through high school and beyond.

The DOE helps schools learn to use Periodic Assessments effectively through coaching by its Senior Achievement Facilitators and Network Leaders, workshops, and online "webinars." Schools may also request their own on-site training on computer-adaptive assessment implementation and data interpretation.

### Why do students take Periodic Assessments?

Periodic Assessments give teachers timely, detailed information on student performance to help guide instruction, and allow schools to monitor student progress over time.

### Who takes Periodic Assessments?

- K-2 students take literacy assessments
- Students in grades 3-8 take assessments in English Language Arts and math
- Students in grades 9-12 take assessments in English and Integrated Algebra until they pass the corresponding Regents Exams

### When do students take Periodic Assessments and when can I see results?

Students take the assessments throughout the school year. Some assessments have specific administration windows, and others can be administered online at any time. Results for assessments administered with paper and pencil are returned electronically within five days; the results of online assessments are available immediately.

You can find the annual assessment calendar online at <http://schools.nyc.gov/Accountability/ResourcesforEducators/PeriodicAssessments/default.htm>

## Sharing Results and Next Steps with Families

Periodic Assessment reports can help you answer parents' questions about how their children are progressing in school. You may want to discuss them, along with students' work in class, during parent-teacher conferences and at other times throughout the school year. Results from many Periodic Assessments are reported in ARIS and available for parents to view using ARIS Parent Link (APL).

Your school may also choose to give students passwords to log in to the Acuity system at home. Through Acuity, you can assign targeted exercises for students to do at home.

### Periodic Assessment Options

The DOE offers several assessment options for English and math in all grades. Each spring, schools choose a combination of assessments to administer for the next school year. Schools may also design their own assessments to use alone or in combination with these offerings.

- **Predictive Assessments (Acuity)** give an early indicator of students' performance on State tests and allow educators to track student progress within and across school years.
- **Instructionally Targeted Assessments (Acuity)** measure how well students have learned information recently taught in class to help teachers plan instructional next steps.
- **Item Bank Assessments (Acuity)** can be created by teachers and given at any time for multiple purposes (diagnostics, class exams, assignments for a targeted group of students). They include a mixture of multiple choice, short answer, and constructed-response items.
- **Computer Adaptive Assessments (Performance Series)** provide precise information about individual students' strengths and areas for improvement and are especially helpful for students performing above or below grade level, including special education students. They can be administered on a computer at any time.
- **Teachers College Reading and Writing Project Assessments** track students' ability to read increasingly difficult texts.
- **PSAT Data Pilot** uses the PSAT college-readiness test for instructional purposes.
- **English Language Learner Assessments** give an early indicator of students' performance on the NY State ESL Assessment (NYSESLAT) and measure progress in English proficiency.

## Periodic Assessments and Quality Reviews

Quality Reviews are designed to evaluate how well a school is organized to improve the achievement of every student in all core subject areas and to use data to inform instruction and organizational needs. Periodic Assessments are designed to support schools in building a culture of data-informed instruction and can help schools meet relevant Quality Review Criteria. Many schools build on the systems of student and organizational improvement created using Periodic Assessment data in English and math to enhance student achievement across all subjects.

Please visit the [Periodic Assessments Web site](http://schools.nyc.gov/Accountability/ResourcesforEducators/PeriodicAssessments/default.htm) for assessment administration information, program updates, and professional development opportunities:

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