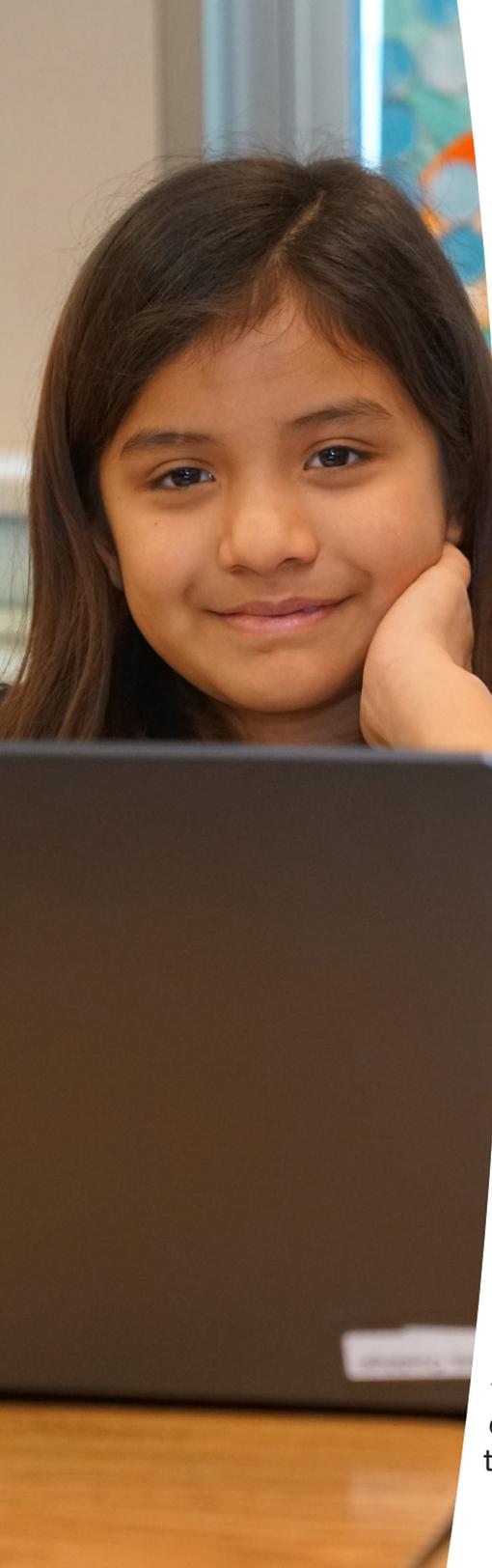




# A PARENT'S GUIDE TO STUDENT ASSESSMENT

*Department of Research Assessment and Data*



## What is the purpose of assessment in MPS?

Assessment helps teachers understand what students know and what they need to learn. The results of tests, quizzes, and other assessments help teachers understand how to modify instruction to meet student needs. These results also provide valuable information to schools that is used in the design of instructional programs aimed at improving achievement.

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*Talk to your child's teacher any time you have questions about your child's performance on a test or assessment.*

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## How much time is spent taking assessments?

Teachers use a variety of tests and assessments to understand your child's progress. Over the course of the school year, less than 1.5% of class time is spent completing required standardized tests.

## What types of assessments are used?

MPS uses a balanced assessment system to support student learning, and uses three types of assessments.

- ▶ **Summative Assessments** evaluate learning at the end of a unit, a course, or a school year. They include standardized state assessments.
- ▶ **Benchmark Assessments** are used periodically throughout a school year to monitor progress, inform instruction, and identify students who need additional support.
- ▶ **Formative Assessments** provide immediate feedback to teachers about how well students are learning and are used by teachers to modify instruction, if needed.

## How can I support my child during testing?

Encourage your child to always give his or her best effort. Make sure your child is well rested and arrives at school on time every day. Remind him or her that tests are tools that help teachers know what to teach. Students can use the results of tests to understand their own academic progress.

## What are some important questions to ask a teacher about assessment?

Talk to your child's teacher about assessment and testing in the classroom. He or she can help you understand what the results mean for your child and how results will impact instruction.

- ▶ What assessments are used in my child's grade level and when are they scheduled?
- ▶ How will the results be used to influence the instruction in the classroom?
- ▶ Will test results impact my child's grades?
- ▶ What are some options at school or at home if the results suggest my child doesn't understand a concept or may benefit from enrichment opportunities?

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*The purpose of assessment in MPS is to have data to empower educators and school leaders to improve instruction and student achievement.*

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## Questions?

For information about specific assessments, resources, and for help understanding your child's test results, please visit:

- ▶ **MPS Assessment:** <http://mpsmke.com/assessment>
- ▶ **Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Assessment:** <https://dpi.wi.gov/assessment>

If you have questions about the ways MPS uses student assessment to inform classroom, school, and district work, please contact us.

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