Understanding Your Child’s Assessments
Grade 1

Assessments help teachers understand what children know and what they need to learn. The results of testing allow teachers and staff to adapt lessons to increase student achievement. At this grade level, students generally spend about five hours per school year taking standardized tests for district, state, and federal accountability.

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For All Students

**Assessment** | **Description** | **Early Start Calendar Dates** | **Traditional Calendar Dates**
---|---|---|---
**PALS – Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening** | • Measures early reading skills such as letters and sounds  
• Teachers use data to plan instruction and target student needs  
• Given one on one or in small groups | Aug. 26 – Sept. 20, 2019  
  Apr. 14 – May 8, 2020 | Sept. 16 – Oct. 11, 2019  
  May 4 – May 29, 2020

**STAR Test** | • Assesses reading and math progress  
• Teachers use data to plan instruction and target student needs  
• Administered by computer | Aug. 19 – Sept. 6, 2019  
  Dec. 2 – Dec. 20, 2019  
  Apr. 27 – May 15, 2020 | Sept. 9 – Sept. 27, 2019  
  Jan. 6 – Jan. 24, 2020  
  May 18 – June 5, 2020

For Some Students

**Assessment** | **Description** | **Early Start Calendar Dates** | **Traditional Calendar Dates**
---|---|---|---
**ACCESS for English Language Learners** | • Assesses language progress in four areas: listening, reading, speaking, and writing  
• Teachers use data to monitor students’ progress in acquiring academic English proficiency  
• Administered by computer | | Dec. 2, 2019 – Jan. 31, 2020

If you have questions about your child’s performance on these assessments, please contact your child’s teacher. Please see the *MPS Parent Assessment* brochure for more information on the role you play in your child’s assessments.