Understanding Your Child’s Assessments
Five-year-old Kindergarten

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 less than 4.5 hours per school year taking standardized tests for district, state, and federal accountability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For All Students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assessment</strong></td>
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| 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 | Sept. 16 – Oct. 11, 2019  
Apr. 14 – May 8, 2020 | Oct. 7 – Nov. 1, 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

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<tr>
<th><strong>Assessment</strong></th>
<th><strong>Description</strong></th>
<th><strong>Early Start Calendar Dates</strong></th>
<th><strong>Traditional Calendar Dates</strong></th>
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| 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  

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.