



## Interim Assessments Fact Sheet

One key component of data driven instruction is the Interim Assessment. Interim assessments are administered quarterly and concurrent with instruction, to measure and report student level proficiency on content standards. These are low-stakes tests, which allow educators to monitor students' progress, and identify problems throughout the school year, so they can effectively intervene to address student needs.

### Questions Interim Assessments Can Answer

- Is this student on track to score Proficient on high-stakes achievement tests?
- How does this student's performance compare to the performance of other students in the class?
- Which content standards are the students performing best on and which standards show the weakest student performance?
- Which students are in need of enrichment or intervention and on which standards?

### Facts

- Interim assessments align to the district benchmarks and curriculum maps at each grading period relative to district targets.
- Interim assessments provide valid and reliable results that are easy to interpret and go beyond simple number correct scores by content area. Data provide teachers and principals the opportunity to use assessment results, down to the item level, to make effective decisions regarding instruction and student learning.
- Interim assessment items cover a range of difficulty and appropriate breadth, with rich representation of content. Items are linked directly to the content standards, curriculum maps and pacing guides.
- Interim assessment items allow students to express their rationale or understanding in a way that is useful to the teacher. The format of interim assessments is similar to CSAP with both, multiple choice and constructed (written) responses.
- Interim assessment results encourage students to evaluate their own knowledge, discover areas in which they need to learn more, and set achievement goals.
- Interim Assessments provide immediate "real-time" results. Teachers, instructional coaches, and principals work in site-based data teams to extract data and analyze reports. The data is used to determine current student proficiency and next steps.
- Interim Assessments are a tool used to drive instruction. Results provide qualitative insights about understandings and misconceptions, in addition to a numeric score, for mapping student longitudinal progress.
- Provide information on students' knowledge/skills levels of a particular group of students to determine students' readiness for the next conceptual level and/or to group them for instruction.
- Interim assessments assist in the development of instructional strategies to ensure acceleration and/or intervention.
- Interim assessment data are used to design professional learning opportunities and support structures.
- Interim assessments are administered 3 times each year to students in grades 3-10 in Reading, Writing and Mathematics and are 50-60 minutes in duration.
- End of course Assessments are administered 3 times each year to students in grades 6-10 Science, US History and Civics.