

Dear Seattle Public Schools Families:

This year, students in grades 3-10 will be taking new interim benchmark assessments in math. Benchmark assessments are used to measure students' understanding relative to the standards being taught. They are not meant to measure mastery or growth. Benchmarks are valuable in that they help teachers and students understand where they are in relation to grade-level standards being taught. These assessments are part of the district's work in implementing the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) Whole Child Framework and pursuing equitable outcomes for each and every one of our students.

Last year we partnered with our vendors to pilot interim assessments in 20 schools. We wanted to be sure the assessments we are using for progress monitoring reflect the instruction, standards, and population of our kids. Teachers and students provided great insight on how these assessments could support teachers' instructional decisions, as well as what changes were needed to meet the needs of all students.

The feedback from the field tests was valuable, and we took it into serious consideration as we crafted a district-wide plan to prepare for the 2018-2019 school year.

SPS interim assessments will be:

1. Aligned to ELA and Math scope and sequence and district-adopted curricula
2. Aligned to the ELA and Math Common Core State Standards
3. Culturally relevant and representative of our student population
4. Tested in real time with our students and tailored based on input from our teachers

2018-2019 Plan for Math Interim Assessments:

Math interim assessments will be available to every school in grades 3-10, with these usage requirements:

- Title I/LAP & Levy Schools: At least one grade level within grades 3rd – 5th
- K - 8: Choose either the middle (6th – 8th) or elementary (3rd – 5th) grade level band
- High Schools: 9th and 10th grades
- All other schools: All students in grades 3-8

The function of interim assessments is to assist teachers in their collaborative decision making around instructional improvement. Interpreting interim results is highly technical in nature and is just one component of addressing student math proficiency. If you are interested in receiving the results of your students' interim assessments, please request results reports during conferences.

2018-2019 Plan for ELA Interim Assessments:

This year will be a second pilot year for the interims, and students are not required to take the CenterPoint ELA interims in the 2018-19 school year. If you are interested in knowing whether or not your school is participating in the ELA pilot, please contact your classroom teacher or principal.