

Understanding Assessments: A Tool for Families

The purpose of assessment for students and their families is to provide feedback about what students are learning and their progress towards their learning goals. The feedback received can be used to help students adjust their learning strategies if needed. A traditional “test” is just one type of assessment.

Assessment data can be used to help students take more responsibility for their learning because it provides them with information that can be used to monitor how well they are learning and ask for help if they are having trouble. Over the course of a school year, assessments happen in a variety of ways. Each kind of assessment provides a different type of feedback about students and their learning and good teachers are also constantly assessing individual and group progress to get feedback on their teaching approaches.

When information from each of these assessments is used together, they create a complete picture of how students are learning, but parents rarely have support in making sense across different data points. The purpose of this document is to provide a general overview of the assessments that students may participate in over the course of a school year.

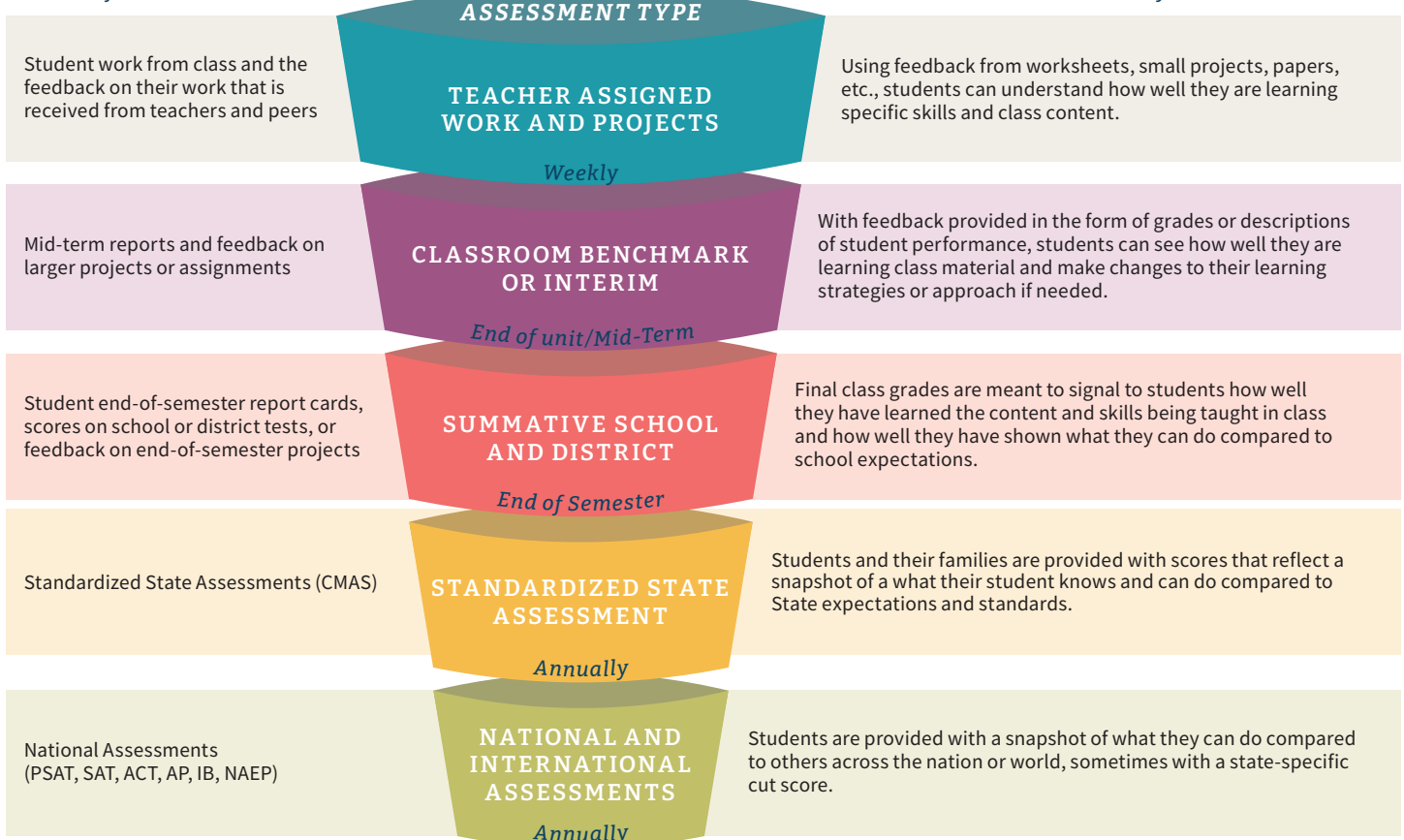
Assessments Throughout the Year

STUDENT WORK

What the Assessment May Look Like for Your Student

INFORMATION PROVIDED

How Feedback Can Be Used by Students and Families





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Glossary

Academic Standards: In Colorado, standards are created by Coloradans for Colorado students and provide a grade-by-grade road map of what students should learn and how they learn to help ensure students are successful at each grade level.

Artifact: An object that allows the student and others to see evidence of student learning. Artifacts can include tests and essays and are the result of tasks, learning activities, projects, and presentations.

Benchmarks: Measurable standards that have been set to evaluate student learning in a specific grade. Benchmarks are used to assess student progress toward year-end goals.

Content: Knowledge and skills to be taught in a specific class.

Interim Assessments: Assessments that are used to evaluate where students are in their learning and determine if they are on track to performing well on future assessments.

Learning Goals: The focus of what students are supposed to learn. Learning goals help students to know where they should focus their efforts and help them to understand the knowledge and skills, they should take from a given task or activity.

Learning Strategies: The set of skills and tactics used by students to learn new information and finish a task or activity.

Student Reflection: A process where students describe their learning, how it has changed, and how it might relate to future learning experiences.

Summative Assessment: Assessments that are used to evaluate student learning and achievement at the conclusion of a defined instructional period, typically at the end of a project, unit, course, semester, or school year.

Did you know?

The vast majority of parents want a better understanding of how their child is progressing and what's expected this year. For ideas and tools to help you team up with teachers based on a shared understanding of progress, visit [futurereadyfamilies.org/resources](https://www.futurereadyfamilies.org/resources).