



KPBSD FAQ's for Teachers and Administrators: Common Benchmark Assessments 2014-2015

The assignments for the assessments are in the grade book. Can parents see them?

No, parents won't see assessments unless the teacher elects to publish them. The district is only requiring teacher record the post – test score in PowerSchool.

Are the assessments assessing the new AK Mathematics Standards?

Yes, the assessments are assessing the new Mathematics Standards. The new KPBSD Benchmark Assessments will assess the priority standards the Math committee members has identified as essential learning for each student at each grade level. Supporting standards should still be assessed by the classroom teacher.

Should 8th grade students taking HS Algebra for credit be enrolled in a HS Algebra course?

Yes, 8th grade students taking algebra for credit should be enrolled in HS Algebra Course MM725. Additionally, 8th grade Algebra Course MM435 is using High School Algebra Standards (not 8th grade standards).

Are the Common Quarterly Assessments timed tests?

The purpose of the Common Quarterly Benchmark Assessments are to show student growth, therefore, giving students adequate time to finish the test is appropriate – one class period would be the norm. If a student has an IEP or 504 plan and an accommodation is extended time, then your teacher should accommodate that need accordingly. Likewise, if your teachers find the CQAs are too lengthy, please send Melissa Linton (mlinton@kpbsd.k12.ak.us) your feedback and she will take that feedback to the math committee for review.

Do we still administer Performance Series Assessments?

Yes, teacher must administer the Performance Assessment three times per year. CQA's do not take the place of the Performance Assessment. The Performance Assessment is an excellent source of student data to predict success on the SBA. Also, Performance Assessments scores are a valid and reliable data point for RTI, should the student be referred to your school intervention team. Finally, the Performance Assessments are good practice for the next phase the new Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) assessment. For the district assessment matrix please visit the following link: <http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=31255>

Should we give students a grade for these Common Benchmark Assessments?

Yes, teachers grade the pre and post assessment. It is the teacher's discretion if they want to use the grade in the student's final grade for the quarter, but they must still enter the post-test score in your gradebook. If you don't want to use the CQA as a grade, you do not have to.

If we can give a class grade (refer to FAQ #6), can we do something to weight the scoring so it is equal to how we grade? My tests are often worth 45-50 points, but the CC is worth 70+. Teachers don't want the quarterly assessments to necessarily dictate how we grade in our classes.

The assignment can be given a weight < 1 (example .5 etc.) to lower the effect on the students TEST Category.

Why are there courses, such as Algebra, without a Common Quarterly Assessment?

Benchmark Common Assessments are available for Math for K-8. The expansion of the Common Benchmark Assessments will continue as KPBSD committees develop them. Common Benchmark Assessments are under construction for High School Math Courses. Starting in the fall of 2014, assessments will be developed for High School Core Classes in science, social studies, and other core content areas.

Currently, mathematics quarterly benchmark Assessments exist for grades K-5. These K-5 assessments can be found on the KPBSD Common Assessment web page or in ConnectEd in the shared assessment folder. Semester Assessments are ready for grades 6-8. You will notice 6th grade assessments for semester 1 are organized by chapter OR semester, to offer flexibility for teachers.

Teachers from the district are currently working on High School Assessments for Algebra 1, Advanced Algebra and Geometry.

Why are there two versions of some of the assessments, and which one should we use?

There has been some confusion as to where teachers should access the Common Benchmark Assessments. Teachers should only use the assessments that are posted on the KPBSD Website on the Assessment page or via the Curriculum Page/Common Assessment link – NOT the shared folder for math. If a teacher has used the shared folder assessment, they must also administer the assessment posted online and record those scores in PowerSchool.

Can they use calculators on these the CQAs?

No calculators. Except for the following: The use of a calculator is an approved accommodation on a student's IEP or 504 plan or the course requires a calculator to be used. I do not have a list of those courses, but it is on my to-do list.

If there is a questions that has not been answered, please feel free to call or email Melissa Linton at ext. 8861 or mlinton@kpbsd.k12.ak.us

THANK YOU!