

PURE *Fact Sheet* Tests in the Chicago Public Schools 2012

Here is a snapshot of the tests our children face throughout the year in CPS.

- 1. ACCESS (Illinois):** ACCESS for ELLs® is a [standards-based](#), criterion referenced test designed to measure English language learners' social and academic proficiency in English.
- 2. Algebra Exit Exam (CPS):** This is a mandatory exam required by any student who would like to take a mathematics course higher than freshman Algebra I during their freshman year.
- 3. Common Core Quarterly (CPS):** These are English Language Arts and Math assessments designed to familiarize teachers with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) standards.
- 4. COMPASS (CPS for CCC)L** This is a test given in cooperation with City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) which uses it to evaluate a student's preparation for college level coursework.
- 5. DIBELS (CPS):** The Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) are short (one minute) measures used to regularly monitor the development of early literacy and early reading skills.
- 6. District-Wide Writing Assessments (CPS):** The district-wide writing assessment is given to eighth grade students to evaluate a student's written communication skills.
- 7. EPAS (PRE and POST) (CPS):** EPAS is shorthand for a trio of tests: EXPLORE in Grade 9, PLAN in Grade 10, and ACT in Grade 11. EPAS will be given at the beginning and end of the school year.
- 8. EXPLORE (CPS):** EXPLORE contains four curriculum-based assessments: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science, is based on the major areas of high school and postsecondary instructional programs and measures the skills and knowledge needed for college success. EXPLORE also includes a career exploration component.
- 9. HS Interim Assessments (CPS):** The High School Interims will consist entirely of multiple-choice items designed to resemble those that appear on the EXPLORE, PLAN and ACT (EPAS) assessments. These multiple-choice items will be new items that have been written specifically for these tests. They will be given three times during the year to help teacher predict student outcomes on the EPAS.
- 10. Illinois Alternative Assessments (Illinois):** The Illinois Alternate Assessment (IAA) is used to measure the learning of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in place of the ISAT.
- 11. ISAT (Illinois):** The Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) measures the achievement of students in reading and mathematics in grades three through eight and science in grades four and seven.
- 12. ISEL (Illinois):** The Illinois Snapshots of Early Literacy (ISEL) are sets of standardized, individually administered measures of early literacy development for grades K, 1, and 2.
- 13. NAEP (USDE):** The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) has frequently been called the "[The Nation's Report Card](#)." It is the only national assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas.
- 14. NWAA (Northwest Evaluation Association) (CPS):** The Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) as a new district-wide measurement of student growth in Chicago Public Schools (CPS). The NWEA assessment will allow the District to move away from the Illinois Standard Achievement Test (ISAT) and the Scantron. NWEA allows for each student to be tested at their current performance level.

- 15. mClass Math and Reading from Wireless Generation (CPS):** Early assessment software for grades K–3, combined with universal screening and progress monitoring. In grades K–1, teachers conduct one-to-one assessments and receive instant results using a [mobile device](#). In grades 2–3, written assessments are administered in groups and teachers input the data afterward.
- 16. mCLASS:Reading 3D** combines a running records [text reading and comprehension](#) (TRC) diagnostic with quick indicators of foundational skills development.
- 17. October SAT 10 (CPS):** Testing for non-CPS students without SAT test scores wishing to apply for CPS selective enrollment high schools.
- 18. PLAN (CPS):** ACT Plan serves as the midpoint measure of academic progress in ACT's College and Career Readiness System. ACT Plan is a comprehensive guidance resource that helps students measure their current academic development, explore career/training options, and make plans for the remaining years of high school and beyond.
- 19. Practice PSAE (CPS):** The purpose of the Practice PSAE is to simulate the state assessment helping students to become familiar with the content and format of this assessment. All grade 11 students should participate in the Practice PSAE.
- 20. PSAE (Illinois):** The Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) measures the achievement of grade 11 students in [reading](#), [mathematics](#), and [science](#). The spring 2013 PSAE includes three components: (1) the [ACT](#), which includes the ACT battery of four multiple-choice tests (English, mathematics, reading, and science), (2) an ISBE-developed science assessment, and (3) two [WorkKeys](#) assessments ([Applied Mathematics](#) and [Reading for Information](#)). In addition, in spring 2013, ACT's WorkKeys [Locating Information](#) assessment will be administered after the three PSAE Day 2 tests. This will allow students the opportunity to be eligible for ACT's [National Career Readiness Certificate \(NCRC\)](#). Scores for WorkKeys Locating Information assessment will not be used in any PSAE score calculations.
- 21. STEP:** The STEP Literacy Assessment is a developmental literacy assessment, instructional tool, and data management system that defines the pathway and tracks the progress of pre-kindergarten through third grade students as they learn to read using research-based milestones. STEP is most appropriate for districts and schools that are practicing small-group differentiated instruction and are interested in the use of formative assessment data to inform instructional improvement.
- 22. REACH Performance Tasks:** The primary way to measure growth for teachers who do not teach traditionally tested subjects and grades will be to use a Performance Task to measure student learning of a course throughout an academic year aligned to a particular standard or group of standards. A performance task is used to assess demonstration of mastery, or progress towards mastery, of a particular skill or standard determined most critical in the course of an academic year (or student learning objective). Performance tasks can be used in every subject area, across disciplines and grade levels. Student performance on each PT will be assessed using a four point rubric, in which the highest score represents mastery of a particular standard. Growth in performance will be measured by subtracting a student's performance on the beginning-of-year PT pre-test from his/her performance on the end of year PT post-test.

For more detailed information about these tests, please go to

<http://pureparents.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/CPStests2012.pdf>

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