

ASSESSMENT TERMS

Assessment	Gathering of information about what a student knows and is able to do.
Baseline	The initial information collected to provide a standard against which future outcomes can be compared.
Benchmark Assessment	An evaluation of student learning progress used to determine whether the students are on track to performing well on future assessments.
Criterion-Referenced	Criterion-referenced assessments measure how well individual students learned the information on a particular topic or grade. The test is created with predetermined criteria. Students are not compared to each other and a student's grade is not influenced by the ability of the class.
Diagnostic Assessment	A variety of assessment tasks that are used to determine students' level of knowledge, skills, and understandings at the beginning of a course, grade level, unit, and/or lesson. It tests the students on what they already know. These tests allow the instructor to adjust the curriculum to meet the needs of the students.
Formative Assessment	Formal and informal assessments that are used throughout a unit or course of study to monitor student progress, so teachers can adjust their instructional practices to meet the needs of their students.
Progress Monitoring	Progress monitoring is a scientifically based practice that is used to assess students' academic performance and evaluate the effectiveness of instruction. Progress monitoring can be implemented with individual students or an entire class.
Norm-referenced	Norm-referenced assessments measure and compare how well students perform in relationship to one another.
Reliability	The extent to which an experiment, test, or measuring procedure yields the same results on repeated trials.
Screening Assessment	A method of collecting data for determining how each student is performing in a different area.
Summative Assessment	Formal assessments used to measure what a student has learned at the end of a defined period of instruction. They can occur at the end of a school level, grade, or course. They are also given at certain grades for state or local accountability.
Validity	The extent to which a test measurement or other device measures what it is intended to measure.