

A Parent's Guide to Assessment....

Assessment is a valuable tool in education, and different viewpoints are necessary to obtain a full picture of a child's ability. There are several different assessment results available to you to track academic progress. Here is some information on a few of them. For a complete analysis and for personalized information, please always contact your child's teacher and/or the assessment coordinator (Mrs. Baker).

There are four main assessment tools used at Traut, depending on your child's grade:

STAR Reading

This assessment is a computer program used to determine how students perform on basic reading/comprehension skills compared with the performance of a nationally representative sample of students in the spring of 1996. This assessment is typically given three times a year for students in 2nd-6th grades (September, January, and May). First grade uses STAR in February and May. There are several different scores reported:

SS (Scaled Score): ranges from 50-1350 and result from converting all test results to a common scale and are used in the determination of all norm-referenced scores reported.

GE (Grade Equivalent): ranges from 0.0 - 13+ and represents how the student performed relative to others in the sample.

PR (Percentile Rank): ranges from 1 - 99 and shows how a student's performance compared to that of his/her grade peers nationally.

NCE (Normal Curve Equivalent): derived from percentile ranks, can be statistically averaged. These scores are used for research purposes, or for Title 1 or other government evaluations.

IRL (Instructional Reading Level): the reading grade level at which the student can recognize words and comprehend material with assistance. This score represents the highest level at which the student demonstrated at least 80% proficiency.

ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development): defines the reading level range from which the student would be selecting books in order to achieve optimal growth in reading without frustration. Success at any level also depends on the student's interest, prior knowledge, and other factors.

Levels / MAPS

These assessments are given in reading and math for grades 2 - 6. They are given in September to grades 3-5 and in September and May to 2nd and 6th grade... Levels tests are discussed in detail in the S.A.L.T. (Standards Achievement Level Tests) booklet available in the school office. Starting in the fall of 2007 all Levels tests may be administered on computer rather than paper and pencil. This computer administration is called MAPS.

Levels tests measure student achievement against Poudre School District (PSD) standards, which are similar to or higher than the Colorado State standards. Levels tests have two scores: (1) RIT score that measures individual achievement, and (2) percentile rank that tells how well a student has performed on the level test in comparison with the total body of students at that grade level who have taken a comparable test nationally. Questions in each levels test cover all the standards, but are of different difficulty levels

Reading Standards Tested:

Word meaning/vocabulary: context clues, synonyms/antonyms, multiple meanings, word roots

Literal comprehension: recall details/facts/main ideas, sequence details, classifying facts, follow directions

Interpretive comprehension: interpret implied meaning from content/style/organization, prediction, summarize and synthesize, recognize cause and effect, draw conclusions/inferences

Evaluative comprehension: evaluate intent/validity/worth of written materials, fact/opinion, and merit of written materials, recognize propaganda techniques

Math Standards Tested:

Computation and estimation: perform operations with real numbers; apply appropriate estimation procedures to problems

Problem solving: use a variety of strategies to solve problems

Number relations: number properties, compare numbers using proper symbols, fraction/decimal/percent interrelationships, locate real numbers on a number line.

Statistics and probability: use logic to solve probability/statistics, read and interpret tables/charts/graphs, use ratios to express simple probabilities

Geometry and measurements: compute areas/perimeter/volume/etc. identify/classify/describe geometric figures.

Patterns and functions; order of operations, substitute into formulas and expressions, solve equations and simplify expressions, plot points on number line and on coordinate graphs, understand concepts of inequality

CSAP

This assessment is given in the spring of each school year. CSAP (Colorado Student Assessment Program) is mandated by the Colorado state legislature. All 3rd through 6th graders are required to take various tests. Third, fourth, and sixth grade take reading, writing and math. Fifth grade takes reading, writing, math and science. Each test has its own student booklet. Questions are short answer, multiple choices, or constructed written response.

CSAP student results: Third grade reading results are sent home to parents at the end of the school year tested. All other student reports are sent home to parents at the beginning of the following school year.

Other information regarding CSAP standards tested in various grades for various academic subjects can be found on the following web site. www.cde.state.co.us link to standards & assessments and then link to unit of student assessments.

Link to Colorado Basic Literacy Act Information

CBLA testing is done each fall to determine which children may need extra support in reading. Those students who score below proficient on the fall testing are placed on an Individualized Literacy Plan (ILP). This is an informal document that is filled in by the teacher and the parents, generally during the fall conference. A student is placed on an ILP from fall to fall, so each fall they are reassessed. To access more information on the CBLA testing from the state link to ...www.cde.state.co.us/action/CBLA/index.htm