

Botetourt County Public Schools



2023-2024

*It is the **mission of Botetourt County Public Schools** to ensure that all students participate in quality learning experiences necessary to grow, to adapt and to meet the challenges of responsible citizenship in a changing global society.*

Botetourt County Public Schools supports learning by utilizing a balanced assessment program. Many of the assessments students take are required by the state and federal departments of education to measure student progress toward performance benchmarks. Local assessments are used to monitor student progress, differentiate instruction, identify students for participation in specific programs, and measure students' mastery of globally competitive skills.

The use of a variety of assessments including, but not limited to, performance tasks, multiple-choice tests and free response allows teachers to gather information and provide feedback to students during the instructional process. A diverse outlook on assessment enables students to be successful learners and cultivate an environment that emphasizes improvement as well as performance.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Required, Mandated or Optional	Who Takes It?	What is it and why is it important?	How are results used?
CORE CURRICULUM				
Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP)	Required by the Division	Students in grades PK & K	The mission of the Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP), based at the University of Virginia, is to provide a comprehensive picture of each student's skills at kindergarten entry and beyond. VKRP assesses students entering kindergarten in the areas of mathematics, self-regulation, social skills, and literacy.	<i>Results allow teachers to individualize needs for students and to inform small group instruction.</i>
DIBELS	Required by the Division	Students in grades K-2	DIBELS is a series of short tests that assess literacy skills such as phonemic awareness, alphabetic principle, accuracy, fluency and comprehension.	<i>Results inform group and individual instruction for the school year.</i>
Developmental Spelling Analysis (DSA)	Optional	Students in grades 3-5	Developmental Spelling Analysis is given to determine a student's stage of spelling development. Once the stage of spelling development is determined, teachers can plan responsive word study instruction.	<i>Results allow teachers to individualize spelling needs for students and to inform small group instruction.</i>
Fountas and Pinnell Reading Assessment (F&P)	Optional (under review)	Students in grades 3-5	F&P Reading assessment is used to identify the instructional and independent reading levels of all students and document student progress through one-on-one formative and summative assessments.	<i>Results inform group and individual instruction for the school year.</i>
Group Reading Assessment & Diagnostic Evaluation (GRADE)	Required by the Division	Students in grade 5	The GRADE assessment is a diagnostic reading test that determines what developmental skills PreK–12 students have mastered and where students need instruction or intervention.	<i>Results are used to track student growth and to inform group and individual instruction for the school year.</i>
Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS)	State Mandated	Students in grades PK-3	PALS allows teachers to view data that reflects students' alphabet and sound recognition, concept of word, fluency, comprehension, spelling, word lists (sight words), and instructional reading level. The data allows the teacher to differentiate reading instruction, word study, and provides a measure of growth. (Fall and Spring Assessments)	<i>Results are used to provide small group PALS instruction for 30 minutes per day in groups of five or less for all students who qualify, utilizing PALS benchmarks. The results are also available for classroom teachers to utilize for small group instruction in areas of need for all students.</i>
Running Records	Optional	Students in grades 2-5	Running Records are formative and summative assessments. They are intended to help teachers with the following: monitor ongoing student progress in reading, identify particular skills and strategies students are using, focus on specific needs of individual children, group students with similar abilities or needs for reading instruction, and choose books at an appropriate level for students.	<i>Results inform group and individual instruction for the school year.</i>
Common Assessments	Optional	Students in grades 2-5	Common assessments are used to monitor student progress and identify skills that are in need of additional support.	<i>Results inform group and individual instruction for the school year.</i>
Writing Prompts	Required by the Division	Students in grades K-5	The writing test is a response to a prompt and it helps to show growth as the year progresses.	<i>Results inform group and individual writing instruction for the school year.</i>

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY OF ENGLISH LEARNERS				
WIDA Access for ELLs 2.0	State Mandated	English Learner Students	Access for ELLs 2.0 is aligned with the WIDA English Language Development Standards and assesses each of the four language domains of Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. This data allows students to receive appropriate assistance in the four language domains.	<i>Data is used to develop individualized plans for EL students and provide them appropriate instructional supports. The ACCESS for ELLs results are used to satisfy state and federal requirements for the annual assessment of the English language proficiency of English language learners. The results are used to determine a student's WIDA English language proficiency level, which determines program eligibility.</i>
HEALTH AND FITNESS				
Health-Related Fitness Test	State Mandated	Students in grades 4-5	The Fitness Test provides fitness and wellness feedback to teachers and students as well as a calculation of Body Mass Index. The sequential program of physical fitness instruction in Virginia is based on the personal fitness strand in the Standards of Learning that focuses student learning on achievement of a health-enhancing level of physical fitness. Students who participate in effective physical fitness programs will be more likely to develop lifelong habits that promote health and learning.	<i>This assessment provides wellness feedback to teachers and students in order to monitor progress with fitness goals. Results are required by the Virginia Department of Education as part of the fitness mandate in order to monitor fitness and wellness progress for each age group and are used as an indicator to measure functional health.</i>
NATIONALLY NORMED				
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)	Federally Mandated	School selections are based on a representative national sample of the student population for grade 4	The NAEP is the largest nationally representative assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas. The NAEP provides results on subject-matter achievement, instructional experiences, and school environment for populations of students.	<i>Although NAEP does not provide individual results to students or schools, the results inform the public about the academic achievement and progress of students in the United States. The NAEP results are reported as The Nation's Report Card. Elected officials, policymakers, and educators all use NAEP results to develop ways to improve education.</i>

STATE ACCOUNTABILITY				
Standards of Learning (SOL)	State Mandated	Students in grades 3-5	The SOL Assessments are assessments that measure mastery of Virginia Standards of Learning.	<i>The results of the SOL tests are used for state accreditation and compliance with the Every Student Succeeds Act. Students in high school must pass a certain number of SOL tests in order to earn verified credits toward a standard or advanced diploma. Individual student results are used as one measure to make educational decisions. Summary results are used as one measure to guide school improvement actions.</i>
Alternative Assessment	State Mandated	Students in grades 3 science & social studies	In accordance with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), all students must take alternative assessments to replace the eliminated SOL tests. The alternative assessments are meant to engage students in critical thinking and assembling an argument with evidence in either written or performed-based products.	<i>Results are used by teachers to inform instruction. The Superintendent must verify that alternative assessments were given to each student who would have taken the eliminated SOL test.</i>
Alternative Assessment	State Mandated	Students in grade 5 language arts	In accordance with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), all students must take alternative assessments to replace the eliminated SOL tests. Performance tasks are used to assess writing, reading, and research and have been embedded into the grade 5 language arts curriculum. The end of-year performance task serves as the alternative assessment to replace the grade 5 SOL writing test.	<i>Results are used by teachers to inform instruction. The Superintendent must verify that alternative assessments were given to each student who would have taken the eliminated SOL test.</i>

MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Required, Mandated or Optional	Who Takes It?	What is it and why is it important?	How are results used?
CORE CURRICULUM				
Group Reading Assessment & Diagnostic Evaluation (GRADE)	Required by the Division	Students in grades 8	The GRADE assessment is a diagnostic reading test that determines what developmental skills PreK–12 students have mastered and where students need instruction or intervention.	<i>Results are used to track student growth and to inform group and individual instruction for the school year.</i>
Common Assessments (Reading and Mathematics)	Optional	Students in grades 6-8	Common assessments are used to monitor student progress and identify skills that are in need of additional support.	<i>Results inform group and individual instruction for the school year.</i>
ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY OF ENGLISH LEARNERS				
WIDA Access for ELLs 2.0	State Mandated	English Learner Students	Access for ELLs 2.0 is aligned with the WIDA English Language Development Standards and assesses each of the four language domains of Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. This data allows students to receive appropriate assistance in the four language domains.	<i>Data is used to develop individualized plans for EL students and provide them appropriate instructional supports. The ACCESS for ELLs results are used to satisfy state and federal requirements for the annual assessment of the English language proficiency of English language learners. The results are used to determine a student's WIDA English language proficiency level, which determines program eligibility.</i>
HEALTH AND FITNESS				
Health-Related Fitness Test	State Mandated	Students in grades 6-8	The Fitness Test provides fitness and wellness feedback to teachers and students as well as a calculation of Body Mass Index. The sequential program of physical fitness instruction in Virginia is based on the personal fitness strand in the Standards of Learning that focuses student learning on achievement of a health enhancing level of physical fitness. Students who participate in effective physical fitness programs will be more likely to develop lifelong habits that promote health and learning.	<i>This assessment provides wellness feedback to teachers and students in order to monitor progress with fitness goals. Results are required by the Virginia Department of Education as part of the fitness mandate in order to monitor fitness and wellness progress for each age group and are used as an indicator to measure functional health.</i>
NATIONALLY NORMED				
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)	Federally Mandated	School selections are based on a representative national sample of the student population for grade 4	The NAEP is the largest nationally representative assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas. The NAEP provides results on subject-matter achievement, instructional experiences, and school environment for populations of students.	<i>Although NAEP does not provide individual results to students or schools, the results inform the public about the academic achievement and progress of students in the United States. The NAEP results are reported as The Nation's Report Card. Elected officials, policymakers, and educators all use NAEP results to develop ways to improve education.</i>
STATE ACCOUNTABILITY				
Standards of Learning (SOL)	State Mandated	Students in grades 6-8	The SOL Alternative Assessments are assessments that measure mastery of Virginia Standards of Learning using a performance task. Alternative Assessments allow students the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding.	<i>The results of the SOL tests are used for state accreditation and compliance with the Every Student Succeeds Act. Students in high school must pass a certain number of SOL tests in order to earn verified credits toward a standard or advanced diploma. Individual student results are used as one measure to make educational decisions. Summary results are used as one measure to guide school improvement actions.</i>
Alternative Assessment	State Mandated	Students in grades 6 & 7 (US History I and US History II)	In accordance with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), all students must take alternative assessments to replace the eliminated SOL tests. The SOL Alternative Assessments are assessments that measure mastery of Virginia Standards of Learning using a performance task. Alternative Assessments allow students the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding.	<i>Results are used as both formative and summative assessments for the skills taught.</i>

HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Required, Mandated or Optional	Who Takes It?	What is it and why is it important?	How are results used?
GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE SKILLS				
Workplace Readiness Skills for the Commonwealth Assessment	Optional	Students enrolled in a Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program	In accordance with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), all students must have an industry credential as a graduation requirement for a Standard Diploma. The Workplace Readiness Skills for the Commonwealth assessment is strongly recommended by VDOE.	<i>Students who pass the Workplace Readiness Skills for the Commonwealth assessment may use this test towards a student-selected verified credit for graduation.</i>
Advanced Placement (AP)/International Baccalaureate (IB)				
Advanced Placement (AP) Exams	Optional (as needed)	High school students who choose to take an exam, regardless of whether or not they are enrolled in an AP course	The AP program allows students to take college-level courses and exams to earn college credit. There are 34 different AP exams that consist of multiple-choice and free-response items. All AP exams are optional for students.	<i>Students' AP exam results enhance their college applications and eligibility for scholarships. The results are also used by (1) high schools for advising and counseling students, (2) VBCPS for evaluating instructional effectiveness and planning curriculum, and (3) colleges to make decisions regarding admissions and scholarships.</i>
COLLEGE ENTRANCE				
ACT	Optional	High school students who choose to register (NOTE: The ACT is not administered during school hours)	The ACT is a standardized, curriculum based, multiple-choice achievement test that includes four areas: English, mathematics, reading and science. The ACT assesses skills and knowledge taught in high school that are important for success in college. The writing test is optional.	<i>The results are used by (1) high schools for advising and counseling students, (2) colleges to make decisions regarding admissions, scholarships and loans, course placement, and academic advising.</i>
SAT	Optional	High school students who choose to register (NOTE: The SAT is not administered during school hours)	There are two types of SAT tests offered: the SAT (formerly known as the SAT I: Reasoning Test) and the SAT Subject Tests (formerly known as the SAT II: Subject Tests). The SAT is a standardized, multiple-choice test that assesses writing and language, reading, and mathematics skills students need to be successful in college.	<i>The results are used by (1) high schools for advising and counseling students, (2) colleges to make decisions regarding admissions, scholarships and loans, course placement, and academic advising.</i>
ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY OF ENGLISH LEARNERS				
WIDA Access for ELLs 2.0	State Mandated	English Learner Students	Access for ELLs 2.0 is aligned with the WIDA English Language Development Standards and assesses each of the four language domains of Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. This data allows students to receive appropriate assistance in the four language domains.	<i>Data is used to develop individualized plans for EL students and provide them appropriate instructional supports. The ACCESS for ELLs results are used to satisfy state and federal requirements for the annual assessment of the English language proficiency of English language learners. The results are used to determine a student's WIDA English language proficiency level, which determines program eligibility.</i>

HEALTH AND FITNESS				
CPR/FA/AED	Required	HPE 9	Testing on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), first aid (FA) and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) is required for all 9th grade students. This VDOE requirement went into effect for all students who entered 9th grade for the first time during the 2016-17 school year.	<i>The results of this test will be reported on student transcripts beginning in the 2019-2020 school year.</i>
Driver Education	Optional	HPE 10	This is an end of course test for the driver education portion of Health and PE in grade 10. Students must pass this assessment to enroll in the behind the wheel portion of getting their driver's license.	<i>The results of this assessment determines student eligibility to take behind the wheel to get their driver's license prior to being 18 years old.</i>
Health-Related Fitness Test	State Mandated	HPE 9/HPE 10	The Fitness Test provides fitness and wellness feedback to teachers and students as well as a calculation of Body Mass Index. The sequential program of physical fitness instruction in Virginia is based on the personal fitness strand in the Standards of Learning that focuses student learning on achievement of a health-enhancing level of physical fitness. Students who participate in effective physical fitness programs will be more likely to develop lifelong habits that promote health and learning.	<i>This assessment provides wellness feedback to teachers and students in order to monitor progress with fitness goals. Results are required by the Virginia Department of Education as part of the fitness mandate in order to monitor fitness and wellness progress for each age group and are used as an indicator to measure functional health.</i>
NATIONALLY NORMED				
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)	Federally Mandated	School selections are based on a representative national sample of the student population for grade 12.	The NAEP is the largest nationally representative assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas. The NAEP provides results on subject matter achievement, instructional experiences, and school environment for populations of students.	<i>Although NAEP does not provide individual results to students or schools, the results inform the public about the academic achievement and progress of students in the United States. The NAEP results are reported as The Nation's Report Card. Elected officials, policymakers, and educators all use NAEP results to develop ways to improve education.</i>
Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT)	Optional	Students in grade 9/10/11	The PSAT is a standardized, multiple-choice test that assesses writing and language, reading, and mathematics. The test provides practice for the SAT and allows students the opportunity to enter National Merit scholarship programs. Individual PSAT results are helpful for advising and counseling students.	<i>At the high school and division levels, PSAT results are used to evaluate instructional effectiveness and plan curriculum.</i>
SCREENING-PLACEMENT				
Virginia Placement Test (VPT)	Optional	Students in grades 9-12	The Virginia Placement Test is a free, two-part assessment of English and math skill levels. The placement test is designed to assess new college students for their readiness to be successful in college coursework.	<i>Results may be used for placement in dual enrollment courses.</i>

STATE ACCOUNTABILITY				
Standards of Learning (SOL)	State Mandated	Students in grades 9-12 (if applicable)	<p>The SOL Alternative Assessments are assessments that measure mastery of Virginia Standards of Learning using a performance task.</p> <p>Alternative Assessments allow students the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding.</p>	<i>Results are used as a summative assessment for the skills taught.</i>
CAREER AND TECHNICAL (CTE)				
Career and Technical Education Certifications/Industry Credentials	Optional	Students in grades 9-12 enrolled in CTE programs or courses.	<p>CTE credentials and industry certifications are documentation that shows proficiency in skills that are required to perform or qualify for employment or higher education programs.</p> <p>Many programs/jobs have requirements for specific credentials.</p>	<i>Results from examinations are used by students to qualify for jobs or higher education programs. Results are also used to modify and improve instruction by identifying areas of needed focus.</i>
WISE Financial Literacy Test	Required by the Division for students on a Standard Diploma who do not have a CTE credential	Students in grades 9-12	Financial literacy is a critical life skill. The credential demonstrates to colleges and employers that students have the knowledge and skills to be financially savvy.	<i>Results are used as a summative assessment for skills taught in the class. Additionally, certification is used as a resume builder.</i>