

Camas County School District #121 Assessments

Camas County School District uses multiple assessments throughout the year. There is a lot of confusion about assessments (test scores), and we would like to inform you about the assessments we give, why we give them, and what would happen if we didn't.

Required Assessments: These are assessments that are required by the State of Idaho or the Federal Government. If we did not give these assessments sanctions would go into effect. One would be losing our accreditation by the state of Idaho. Accreditation allows our credits and courses to be transferable (accepted) by other K-12 schools, colleges and universities. Also, our school sports teams would also not be allowed to compete with any school that is accredited by the state. Another sanction for not giving these tests would be a loss in revenue by the state and federal government. They would not fund us for any teaching positions which, in turn, would mean we would not have a school.

- 1. ISAT (Idaho State Achievement Test)-** This test is required by the State of Idaho and Federal government in order to be in compliance with NCLB (No Child Left Behind) law. It is given three times a year, in the fall, winter, and spring at grades 2-10 and tests math, language arts, reading, and science standards. Every student in the state of Idaho has to meet proficiency on this assessment by the 10th grade in order to graduate from high school. The only test that is optional is the winter assessment. We give the winter assessment because it allows us to monitor the progress of students and remediate them if necessary before the spring test. The spring test is the test that counts towards AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress). If a school does not meet AYP benchmarks, then sanctions go into effect that increase with severity every consecutive year a school does not meet AYP. Camas County School District has met AYP benchmarks every year.
- 2. IRI (Idaho Reading Indicator) -** This test is required by the State of Idaho in grades K-3rd grade. It is given three times a year in fall, winter and spring. We are required to give it all three times. This assessment is used to measure early literacy skills at these grades. If students are not meeting proficiency on the fall assessment we are required to remediate with these students to bring them up to proficiency. We currently run an after school program in the spring for these students.
- 3. DWA (Direct Writing Assessment) and DMA (Direct Math Assessment) -** These assessments are required by the State of Idaho in the fall of each year. The DWA is required at grades 5, 7 and 9. The DMA is required at grades 4, 6 and 8. The Idaho Direct Writing Assessment (DWA) is a performance-based test to assess progress toward achieving Idaho Language Arts Standards. The purpose of the Idaho Direct Mathematics Assessment (DMA) is to measure Idaho students' mathematical problem-solving skills, including their ability to apply skills learned in alignment with the Idaho Math Achievement Standards to problem-solving situations.

4. **NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress)** - This test is required by the Federal government. The NAEP assessment, also known as "the Nation's Report Card," is an assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas. Since 1969, assessments have been conducted periodically in reading, mathematics, science, writing, U.S. history, civics, geography, and the arts. Schools are randomly chosen to participate in certain grades. If your school is chosen you have to give the assessment. Camas County School District #121 has been drawn the last two consecutive years. The test is usually given in winter after the first of the year.

Optional Assessments: The following are assessments that the school has the option of giving. They are useful in monitoring the progress of individual students to aid us in making sure that we are doing everything we can to assist a student in maintaining grade level skills.

1. **DIBELS (Dynamic Indicator of Basic Early Literacy Skills)** - This assessment provides us with very detailed information on literacy (Reading) skills that students need to be successful readers. It provides us with information that the required assessments miss. They are designed to be short (one minute) fluency measures used to regularly monitor the development of pre-reading and early reading skills. We use this assessment multiple times during the year to make sure we are teaching the students these important skills and also to monitor the progress of a remediation technique that we might be using to make sure that the technique is working. This assessment is used from Kindergarten through 8th grade.
2. **San Diego Quick Assessment-** This is a short assessment that allows us to determine a student's Instructional level for reading.