

Summary of the Assessment picture in North Dakota

NDSA Task Force Meeting

September 3, 2015

Objectives

- Discuss briefly assessment terms as they apply to our group
- Share what has historically been done in ND--1990s to today
- Examine the list of assessments that are mandated by law in North Dakota
- Review a list of additional assessments that schools may be using
- Look at our current state assessment and the resources that are available for this group to review
- Determine what additional information we might need

Brief Review of Assessment Terms

- **Summative assessment:** used to evaluate student learning, skill acquisition, and academic achievement at the conclusion of a defined instructional period—typically at the end of a project, unit, course, semester, program, or school year.
- **Interim or Formative assessment:** gathers information about student learning-during the progression of a course or program and usually repeatedly-to improve the learning of those students.
- **Norm-referenced assessment:** student performance or performances are compared to a larger group. Usually the larger group or "norm group" is a national sample representing a wide and diverse cross-section of students.
- **Criterion-referenced assessment:** an individual's performance is compared to a specific learning objective or performance standard and not to the performance of other students

Review of Assessment Terms (cont.)

- **North Dakota State Assessment (NDSA):** Assessment delivered to students in grades 4, 8 and 11 in math, English language arts (ELA) and science.
- **Common Assessments:** local interim assessments collaboratively designed by grade-level or course teams of teachers
- **Standards Based Grading:** student proficiency reported in a number of specific learning goals, standards or outcomes. These outcomes are shared with students at the outset of a learning unit, along with a learning scale, or rubric.
- **Rubrics:** a scoring guide that helps teachers evaluate student performance, based on a range of criteria. A rubric lists the criteria that student work should exhibit and describes specific quality levels for those criteria.

History

NDDPI has provided standardized assessments for a number of years with the purpose of evaluating general school improvement efforts in reading, writing, spelling, etc. Our current records go back to the 1990s. Since then CTB McGraw-Hill was our testing company.

Family of TerraNovas developed by CTB and were norm-referenced tools that provided student performance data as referenced to national achievement norms (norm-referenced).

1994 IASA (Improving America's Schools Act) Congress introduced Goals 2000 and provided dollars to create standards. 1995 for ELA and 1997 for math. Testing changed to criterion-based in reference to the standards.

History (cont.)

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB): the Act of Congress that was a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which included Title I.

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP): the measure by which schools, districts, and states are held accountable for student performance. The goal was to have all students reaching proficient levels in reading and math by 2014 as measured by performance on state tests.

Every Child Achieves Act: reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act that is currently being written.

Current Assessments mandated by law in ND

| Assessment | Law/Regulation That Requires It | Who Takes It | When It's Taken |
|---|---|----------------------|--|
| North Dakota State Assessment (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium) | NDCC 15.1-21-08 Federal Public Law 107-110 Section 1111 (b)(3), 115 STAT 1449 | Grades 3-8, Grade 11 | Spring: English, Mathematics October: Science |
| ACT or WorkKeys | NDCC 15.1-21-19 | Grade 11 | April |
| Interim Assessment, i.e. NWEA-MAP | NDCC 15.1-21-17 | Grades 2-10 | School district decides |
| National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) | Code of Federal Regulations, Title 34, Subtitle 8, Chapter II, Parts 200 and 200.11 | Grades 4 and 8 | Late January to early March, every two years |
| Home Education | NDCC 15.1-23-09 | Grades 4, 6, 8, 10 | Parent decides |

Current Assessments mandated by law in ND (cont.)

Nonpublic schools are not required to give the listed exams.

State law or federal regulation requires all of the tests listed in the matrix to be administered to public school students.

Federal law requires states to adopt academic content and achievement standards, and to provide assessments to measure how those standards are being met.

Home educators may use a standardized achievement test that is used by the school district where the student lives, or a nationally recognized achievement test. Home educators may forego tests if the parent objects, and the parent has a bachelor's degree, is a teacher licensed by the Education Standards and Practices Board, or has a qualifying score on a national teachers' exam.

Assessments used in some ND schools

- **Measures of Academic Progress (MAP):** adaptive interim/formative assessments (meets state requirement for interim assessment)
- **STAR:** adaptive interim/formative assessments (meets state requirement for interim assessment)
- **ACT Aspire:** maps learner progress from grades three through high school on a vertical scale, anchored to the scoring system of the ACT. There are both formative and summative tests available.
- **PSAT and SAT Assessments** (College Board): standardized college admissions testing similar to ACT
- **Aimsweb, Easy CBM and DIBELS:** Benchmark and Progress Monitoring measures
- **Smart Balanced Interim Assessments**
- **Common Assessments**

2014-15 NDSA

- Measured Progress is the company that delivered the online math and language arts NDSA which was developed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium.
- Each content area of the online test consists of a computer adaptive test (CAT) as well as a performance task (PT).
- Estimated time required for testing was similar to testing times in past years.
- Website “Understanding NDSA Student Reports”:
https://www.nd.gov/dpi/students-parents/state_assessment
- Additional information and practice tests are available at:
<https://ndsasmarter.measuredprogress.org/portal/>

Questions?