

KENTUCKY EDGUIDES | GOALS & RESULTS 1.2

Statewide Assessment of Student Learning

Kentucky students participate in annual assessments that gauge progress toward the knowledge and skills called for by the Kentucky Core Academic Standards.

WHAT SUBJECTS AND GRADES ARE PART OF THE K-PREP ASSESSMENTS?

Students taking K-PREP respond to multiple choice questions, short-answer items for grade 3, short answer and extended response items for the later grades, and on-demand prompts for writing.

	GRADE							
	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11
Reading	★	★	★	★	★	★		
Mathematics	★	★	★	★	★	★		
Science		★				★		
Social Studies			★			★		
Writing			★	★		★	★	★
Language Mechanics		★		★			★	

Student responses to the K-PREP items are used to provide three kinds of reports:

- Novice, apprentice, proficient, and distinguished performance levels, with proficient indicating that students have met state standards, distinguished indicating work above state standards, and novice and apprentice meaning work below those expectations.
- Percentile scores showing how student performance compares to the performance of a representative sample of students nationwide.
- Growth results comparing individual students' work in reading and mathematics to the work of the students' peer groups, looking at two years of work in those subjects.

WHAT SUBJECTS ARE PART OF K-PREP END OF COURSE TESTS IN HIGH SCHOOL?

When students complete some high school classes, they take tests of the content and skills taught in those courses. Currently, students take the ACT QualityCore end-of course (EOC) tests for English II, Algebra II, Biology, and U.S. History. Students' responses on the EOC multiple-choice items are used to identify novice, apprentice, proficient, and distinguished performance.

SEEING RESULTS

Statewide K-PREP results are included in the Kentucky EdGuides on Results for All Students and on Results for Underserved Student Groups, available at www.prichardcommittee.org.

School-level results are published in school report cards available at applications.education.ky.gov/SRC.

Scores for individual students are only available to their parents, teachers and school leaders, as well as 18-year-old students.

SETTING DELIVERY TARGETS FOR IMPROVING SCORES

For each subject, schools have been asked to raise the percent of proficient or distinguished halfway to 100 in five years. Those "delivery targets" are listed in school report cards and used to develop school improvement plans.

LEARNING MORE

To see sample items from Kentucky's statewide assessments, go to education.ky.gov and search for "sample Items."

At www.prichardcommittee.org, additional Kentucky EdGuides address many topics, including the Kentucky Academic Standards addressed by these assessments and the School Accountability process that uses assessment results and other data to recognize strong schools, intervene in struggling schools, and set Annual Measureable Objectives for schools to improve their results.

Local boards of education decide what fraction of course grades will come from the end of course assessments.

WHAT READINESS TESTS ARE TAKEN BY ALL STUDENTS?

The ACT test of college readiness is taken by all Kentucky students in grade 11 to receive scores in English, mathematics, reading, and science, plus a composite score combining those results. In 2014-15 and earlier years, students also took ACT’s Explore assessment in grade 8 and ACT’s Plan assessment in grade 10. Explore and Plan will not be given in 2015-16, but new readiness assessments for those grades are expected to be added for future years.

For each test, students receive numerical results called scale scores, and those results can also be compared with readiness benchmark scores that correlate with success at the next level of education.

	EXPLORE (Grade 8)	PLAN (Grade 10)	ACT (Grade 11)
Top Possible Score	25	30	36
English Benchmark	13	15	18
Mathematics Benchmark	17	19	19
Reading Benchmark	15	17	20
Science Benchmark	20	21	None set
Who Set the Benchmarks	ACT, Inc.	ACT, Inc.	Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

Students who score below the benchmarks receive accelerated learning opportunities to help them move up to benchmark-level performance. By reaching benchmarks, students are assured that Kentucky public universities and Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) will allow them to enroll in credit bearing courses. Students whose scores stay below benchmark may have to pay for non-credit developmental courses before starting work toward their degrees, so students and families definitely want to work on meeting the benchmark expectations.

OPTIONAL ASSESSMENTS

Students can also show college readiness and career readiness by meeting benchmark scores on other tests. These assessments are not required, but can be beneficial for individual students and also help schools demonstrate student success. (Industry certificates are also used as readiness indicators.) The options include:

- **ACT WorkKeys**, a test of reading for information, locating information and applied mathematics, skills needed in the workplace.
- **ASVAB**, the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery used for military recruitment.
- **KYOTE**, Kentucky Online Testing used by most Kentucky colleges and universities for course placement if a student did not meet ACT benchmarks.
- **Compass**, used to measure strengths and weaknesses and determine placement in college courses.
- **KOSSA**, the Kentucky Occupational Skill Standards Assessment given to Career and Technical Education (CTE) students.

Advanced Placement (AP) tests allow students to show that some of their high school work should qualify for college credit.

MAP, ThinkLink, and some other kinds of testing are also used in some Kentucky schools and districts. These are not required state tests, but can be used to provide evidence about whether students are on track in key subjects. They are most helpful when they are used as “formative assessments” that help teachers identify student needs and plan next steps for each child’s learning.