

TESTING PROGRAMS / ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

Sheridan County School District No. One will establish and maintain a comprehensive district assessment system for students in Kindergarten through grade 12. This system will include common district assessments aligned to district and state standards and benchmarks, norm-referenced tools, and state and federally mandated assessments. Tests may include ability, achievement, interest, physical, and aptitude measurements as directed by the Superintendent. The grade levels at which testing shall be conducted as well as the schedule of tests given district-wide will be determined by the superintendent with the input of the curriculum advisory committee. Group and individual test results shall be considered a part of the student's records.

The purposes of the district-testing program are to facilitate and provide information for the following:

1. Student Achievement - To produce information about student achievement on state, district, and national standards. The information will be used to help teachers make instructional decisions regarding student needs.
2. Academic Placement - To serve as a screening tool in providing direction for specific academic placement. This may include extended learning such as Friday school, after school tutoring, and summer school and / or placement in specific programs such as Gifted and Talented or Title I.
3. Instructional Improvement - To provide information for data-based recommendations for instructional changes in standard/curriculum implementation, instructional strategies, and program implementation.
4. Accountability – To provide information to stakeholders about student and school performance relative to district, state, and national standards.
5. Professional Development – Student performance data will be used to develop District and school professional development programs.

The District identifies, monitors, and reports group-testing results through an annual District Report/State of the District, which is disseminated to individual schools and patrons of the district. When a sub-group (such as gender, ethnicity, social economic status (SES), mobility, special education, Title I, Gifted and Talented) consists of 10 or more students, the results will be disaggregated. The district will also track assessment participation rates. The district will provide assessment results to students and parents to assist them in guiding the students toward progress on state and district standards.

All students are expected to participate in district assessments in one of the following three ways:

1. Participation in the district assessments without accommodations.
2. Participation in the district assessments with accommodations.
3. Participation in district alternative assessments.

The decision about how a student will participate in an assessment is made by the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Student Improvement Team (SIT). Students must participate in the district assessments with or without accommodations if they receive any instruction on the standards regardless of where the instruction takes place. An IEP team will determine if an alternate assessment is appropriate for a student with a disability who is not working toward the state standards. The testing program shall be reviewed annually.

Individual Testing

Individual testing of students may be necessary from time to time in order to assess an individual student's progress and needs as well as to provide appropriate programming. Individual student academic achievement tests other than those involved in the placement of students in programs for students with disabilities may be administered to students at the discretion of the teacher and building principal. Individual student achievement tests and other measures used for placement of students in District special instructional programs other than for students with disabilities shall be in conformance with regulations applicable to those programs. All individual student tests, which may be used in the placement process for students with disabilities, shall be administered only as prescribed in approved procedures outlined in federal mandates.

Revised: 10/21/03; 5/12/20