

Questions Parents/Guardians May Ask

Regarding the Use of Interim and Diagnostic Tools to support instruction in Grades 3-9 during Re-entry



What assessment tools are available for my student's teacher to use to help identify my student's academic strengths and weaknesses as school resumes?

The West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) provides a variety of interim and diagnostic assessment tools for teachers to use throughout the school year:

- » Comprehensive Interim Assessments (CIAs):
 - › Assess students on content standards in English language arts and mathematics
 - › Similar in length and scope to the West Virginia General Summative Assessment (WVGSA)
 - › Include similar types of questions as the WVGSA
 - › Two types available:
 - *Computer adaptive*
 - *Fixed form*
- » Interim Module Assessments (IMAs), Diagnostic Assessments (DIAs), and Science Interim Assessments (SIAs):
 - › Include similar types of questions as the WVGSA
 - › Much shorter tests
 - › Assess smaller amounts of content

More details about the state-provided interim and diagnostic assessment tools are located on the *West Virginia Interim and Diagnostic Tools, and the Formative Assessment Process: An Informational Guide for Parents/Guardians*. This document is located at <https://wvde.us/assessment/learn-more-about-testing/>.

As my student returns to school this fall, what are the benefits he or she gains by taking an interim or diagnostic test early in the school year?

Because the COVID-19 pandemic forced the suspension of the usual spring statewide testing, the WVDE recognizes the need to explore different ways of finding any gaps in learning which may have occurred because of the change in instructional methods. Interim and diagnostic assessment tools are available to assist educators in locating these gaps. These online assessment tools:

- » Provide student data missed when students in Grades 3-8 were not administered the WVGSA in spring 2020.
- » Allow schools to obtain information regarding each student's academic strengths and weaknesses.
- » Allow for the creation of learning goals and targets.
- » Allow educators, students, and parents/guardians to match instruction with student academic needs.

How will these tests be administered to my student?

The interim and diagnostic tests will be administered on a computer in the same manner the WVGSA is administered each spring. Teachers administer the tests in class during a time they choose.

If my student has accommodations, will those be available on the interim and diagnostic tests?

Yes. Students who have an IEP, Section 504 Plan, or EL Participation Plan will receive all available accommodations the same as they would for the WVGSA.

If the interim and diagnostic tests are administered, how will my student's results be used?

All interims provide valuable data to assist educators, students, and parents/guardians in meeting the individual academic needs of our students. Your student's results allow the teacher to adjust instruction ensuring students better understand what is being taught.

