

Student Assessment – Comprehensive Assessment System

The mission of the Augusta Public Schools is to provide high quality educational programs in academic skills, life skills, career preparation and citizenship. It is our desire to help students attain the knowledge, skills, and attitudes they need to achieve personal fulfillment, be responsible citizens, do meaningful work, and pursue lifelong learning.

In order to assess student performance, a Comprehensive Assessment System has been developed for grades K-12. Its purpose is to provide information for guiding classroom instruction, monitoring student progress, and certifying student achievement with respect to school system curriculum and state (Maine's Learning Results) and national standards. In addition, the Comprehensive Assessment System is designed to use valid and reliable information on student achievement in order to make informed decisions for evaluating programs and instructional practices and in allocating resources to better serve students' needs.

Comprehensive Assessment System Design

The Comprehensive Assessment System consists of diagnostic, formative, and summative assessments collected from internal and external sources at multiple grade levels and in a variety of subjects, K-12. Internally, at the classroom level, teachers are expected to develop assessments that may take the form of experiments, portfolios, performances, debates, projects, models, creative writing, paper and pencil tests, and/or problem solving activities. At the same time, students will be assessed at grade levels and grade spans using both state and locally designed assessment measures. Consideration of information from the MEA will also be used to validate student achievement.

This system for measuring, monitoring, and certifying student achievement and learning is based on Chapter 127 requirements for a Local Assessment System. These principles include:

1. Assessments will be aligned with the Augusta School System curriculum and with the content standards of the Learning Results.
2. The Local Assessment System (LAS) will use multiple measures of student learning for each grade span (K-4) (5-8) (9-12). The assessment measures should be developmentally appropriate for the age span.
3. The LAS is intended to provide for a fair and equitable opportunity for students to demonstrate knowledge and understanding.
4. The LAS will include, at a minimum, classroom, school, school administrative unit, and state levels of assessment.

5. The MEA will be one of the measures of a student's achievement. It cannot be the sole measure of certifying student achievement. However, if the student receives a score of Does Not Meet on any portion of the assessment, the student may have to take additional assessments to assure that he/she has acquired the knowledge and skills necessary for graduation. MEA scores will be part of the student's formal transcript.
6. Effort shall be made to see that testing contributes to the learning process rather than detracts from it.
7. Accommodations may be made in the assessment based on the needs of the student as established in the student's Individual Education Plan or Section 504 Plan.

Interpreting and Reporting Information

It is the responsibility of teachers and school administrators at each respective school to administer assessments and to collect, organize, analyze, and interpret information. Each system school will be expected to develop an annual *School Performance Profile* that includes all information related to student learning. Each *School Performance Profile* will include recommendations and school goals for improving student achievement and well-being. A composite of information contained in each school's *School Performance Profile* will be used in developing an annual, K-12, Augusta Public School System Performance Profile.

School Performance Profiles are intended to provide students, parents, teachers/professional staff, administrators, and the community with understandable information that conveys school and school unit performance on the content areas of the system of Learning Results, as well as progress and/or achievement in respect to other important indicators of student learning.

Each year, beginning in 2004-2005, the superintendent of schools shall certify that a local assessment system that meets these requirements is in place and the school system's and DOE report student and school performance based on the local assessment system. By 2007-2008, the superintendent of schools must certify graduation for all students based on their meeting the performance criteria.

Special Provisions

For students who experience difficulty in achieving at expected performance levels, students, teachers, and administrators will meet to identify specific problems and issues interfering with student learning and to develop corrective actions that will enable each student to successfully achieve stated performance expectations.

**City of Augusta
Department of Public Schools**

**LEGAL REF: 20-MSRSA § 6201-6205
CH. 127 § 2, 4 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rules)**

Adopted: February 11, 2004