

# West Virginia Interim and Diagnostic Assessments, and the Formative Assessment Process

## *An Informational Guide for Parents/Guardians*



Detailed below is information regarding interim and diagnostic assessments, as well as the formative assessment process, teachers may use during the upcoming school year to inform and adjust instruction to address each student's individual academic needs.

### **Interim and Diagnostic Assessments**

An interim or diagnostic assessment is a form of assessment educators use periodically during the school year to evaluate where students are in their learning progress and to determine whether students are on track for college and career readiness. Interim and diagnostic assessments should not be used to provide “grades” for students.

The West Virginia Department of Education provides the interim and diagnostic assessments described below for optional use to counties and schools. Counties and schools also may choose to purchase and administer other off-the-shelf interim assessments.

#### **English Language Arts and Mathematics**

- » Comprehensive Interim Assessments (CIAs)
  - › Similar in length, scope, and types of questions to the year-end West Virginia General Summative Assessment (WVGSA).
  - › Taken early in the school year, provides a baseline of student understanding.
  - › Taken later in the school year, provides evidence of student mastery of content.
  - › Two types available:
    - › *Computer Adaptive CIA*
      - Adapts based on whether the student answers correctly or incorrectly.
      - Each student may see different questions.
    - › *Fixed Form CIA*
      - Does not adapt based on student responses.
      - Each student in a class or group sees the same questions.

#### **English Language Arts and Mathematics**

- » Interim Module Assessments (IMAs)
  - › Short tests assessing “chunks” of related content.
  - › Several tests are available to allow all the content for the school year to be assessed.
- » Diagnostic Assessments (DIAs)
  - › Very short tests assessing more specific content than interim module assessments.
  - › Four ELA tests per grade.
  - › Ten to eleven math tests per grade.
  - › Taken throughout the school year.

#### **Science**

- » Science Interim Assessments (SIAs)
  - › Grade-band tests:
    - › *Elementary School, Grades 3-5.*
    - › *Middle School, Grades 6-8.*
  - › Short tests assessing “chunks” of related content.
  - › Taken throughout the school year.

### **The Formative Assessment Process**

Formative assessment is a daily process teachers use to gather evidence during instruction to personalize learning for all students.

#### **How the Process Works**

During a lesson, the teacher may:

- » Communicate to students the learning goals for the lesson.
- » Ask students to ask questions.
- » Ask students questions to see if they understand the material.
- » Ask students to indicate their level of understanding.
- » Ask students to explain, in their own words, what they were just studying.
- » Provide immediate, useful feedback to students.

If a student displays difficulty, the teacher may adjust instruction to help students better understand the content being taught. This helps teachers ensure their students are learning what they need to know, and it keeps students from falling behind.

