

Wahoo Public Schools



**WPS Assessment Brochure
2023-2024**

Mission: *INSPIRING OUR STUDENTS TO THRIVE!*

We are committed to:

- Equipping our students for the 21st Century
- Providing opportunities for students to realize their full potential
- Creating engaged citizens
- Collaborating with the greater Wahoo community

The Wahoo Public Schools (WPS) Board of Education, through Policy 5012 - Testing & Assessment Program:

The school district will use a basic testing and assessment program to evaluate the outcome of the educational program and to provide information needed in working with individuals. The superintendent and designees will coordinate the program from Kindergarten through twelfth grade to provide continuity.

The Wahoo Public Schools (WPS) Board of Education, through Policy 5018 - Parent and Guardian Involvement In Education Practices:

Parents/Guardians will be provided access, as described in district procedures, to district-approved textbooks and other curricular materials and tests used in the district upon request. A parental request to review specific standardized or criterion-referenced tests used in the district should be made in writing to the building principal.

Parents/guardians will be informed of the standardized and criterion-referenced district testing program. Parents may request additional information from the building principal. Parents/guardians will be informed of the circumstances under which they may opt-out of state and federal assessments. Parents/guardians will be notified of their right to remove their children from surveys prior to district participation in surveys.

****If families have any specific questions about testing or opting out of testing, please direct questions to your building principal.**



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)

3rd - 5th grade students who qualify based on a variety of measures may complete this ability instrument during the school year. The CogAT is a group test designed to assess students' abilities through verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal test items. Students new to Wahoo will be given the opportunity to test in the fall. Results are used for identification for High Ability Learner (HAL) program services.

English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA21)

Beginning in February, all identified English Language Learners (ELLs) in Kindergarten – 5th grade complete this state-delivered assessment. The ELPA21 measures a child's proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, listening to, and understanding English. "Proficiency" is defined as the ability to use the English language to communicate ideas, knowledge, and information.

Fastbridge Curriculum Based Measures (CBMs) (Reading & Math)

Students in Kindergarten – 5th grade participate in reading (earlyReading & Reading Fluency) and math (general math & operational fluency skills) tests which provide teachers and families specific information regarding the progress students are making over the course of the school year. These benchmark assessments are generally completed in 1 to 5 minutes and take place in the fall, winter and spring.

Fastbridge SAEBRS

Teachers of students in Kindergarten – 5th grades complete the SAEBRS and students in 2nd – 5th grades complete the mySAEBRS social-emotional behavior screener. This measure provides statements to which the respondent indicates – "Never, Sometimes, Often, Almost Always". There are three main categories – social behavior, academic behavior and emotional behavior. These screeners are administered twice per year (October & January) and school counselors and school psychologists use this information to initiate conversations with students and families regarding potential supports, beyond academic, that may be needed.

GOLD (Head Start)

All Head Start students participate in this ongoing observation-based assessment in the fall, winter, and spring. The GOLD assessment focuses on various areas of development and learning. The information provided creates a profile with key predictors of school success in literacy & language and mathematics.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

Content Area Assessments

Throughout the school year, students will complete assessments delivered in their content area classes. These assessments are designed to ensure that all students gain the knowledge and skills detailed in the Wahoo Public Schools curriculum.

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Growth

Students in 2nd – 5th grades complete computer-adaptive assessments that align to Nebraska academic standards in reading and mathematics. The real-time results provide information on which skills students are ready to learn next, student achievement levels, a student's relative strengths and weaknesses, reading levels, national comparisons, and student growth over time. This assessment is completed a minimum of two times per year.

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

Mid-year, some 4th grade students in selected schools complete the NAEP. The NAEP test is the “largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in core subjects. NAEP is congressionally mandated, and was first administered in 1969 to measure student achievement nationally. The results of NAEP are released as the Nation's Report Card.” Individual student or school results are not provided.

<http://www.education.ne.gov/naep/>

6th Grade Math Placement Assessment

In March or April, 5th grade students complete this mathematics placement test. This assessment covers 6th grade mathematics skills and is used to measure a student's readiness for higher levels of mathematics in middle school and also in recommending a mathematics course placement for 6th grade.

Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS Growth) - State Summative Test

In the Spring, all students in 3rd – 5th grades complete the online-administered state test that assesses the state's College and Career Ready Standards in English language arts (3rd – 5th), mathematics (3rd – 5th), and science (5th only).

NSCAS State Alternate Assessments (NSCAS-AA)

In April, some students in 3rd – 5th grades with severe cognitive limitations complete the individually-administered state alternate assessments. These assessments measure the alternate state content standards in English language arts (3rd – 5th), mathematics (3rd – 5th), and science (5th only).

MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)

Students who qualify based on a variety of measures may complete this ability instrument during the school year. The CogAT is a group test designed to assess students' abilities through verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal test items. Results are used for identification for High Ability Learner (HAL) program services. Students new to Wahoo will be given the opportunity to test in the fall.

English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA21)

Beginning in February, all identified English Language Learners (ELLs) in 6th – 8th grade complete this state-delivered assessment. The ELPA21 measures a child's proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, listening to, and understanding English. "Proficiency" is defined as the ability to use the English language to communicate ideas, knowledge, and information.

Fastbridge SAEBRS

Teachers of students in 6th - 8th grades complete the SAEBRS and students in 6th – 8th grades complete the mySAEBRS social-emotional behavior screener. This measure provides statements to which the respondent indicates – "Never, Sometimes, Often, Almost Always". There are three main categories – social behavior, academic behavior and emotional behavior. These screeners are administered twice per year (September & January) and school counselors and school psychologists use this information to initiate conversations with students and families regarding potential supports, beyond academic, that may be needed.

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In the Spring, all students in 6th – 8th grades complete the online-administered state test that assesses the state’s College and Career Ready Standards in English language arts (6th – 8th), mathematics (6th – 8th), and science (8th only).

NSCAS State Alternate Assessments (NSCAS-AA)

In April, some students in 6th – 8th grades with severe cognitive limitations complete the individually-administered state alternate assessments. These assessments measure the alternate state content standards in English language arts (6th – 8th), mathematics (6th – 8th), and science (8th only).



HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

American College Testing (ACT) with Writing -- State Test

Each spring, all students in 11th grade complete the high school state test, ACT. The ACT is a standardized assessment for college and career readiness that also functions as the state test of Nebraska. Subjects include: English, reading, mathematics, science, and writing. Colleges use the results for admissions, loans, scholarships, course placement, and academic advising.

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)

In the fall, a career exploration assessment is available to students in grades 10-12 as a means of uncovering the various skills and interests that they may have. The ASVAB tests not only typical school curricular areas like general science, arithmetic reasoning, word knowledge and paragraph comprehension, but also tests other areas like electronics knowledge, auto and shop information and how well a test taker can visually assemble objects. More information comes directly to families from the HS Counselor.

Content Area Assessments

Throughout the school year, students will complete assessments delivered in their content area classes. These assessments are designed to ensure that all students gain the knowledge and skills detailed in the Wahoo Public Schools curriculum.

English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA21)

In February, all identified English Language Learners (ELLs) in 9th – 12th grades complete this state-delivered assessment. The ELPA21 measures a child's proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, listening to, and understanding English. "Proficiency" is defined as the ability to use the English language to communicate ideas, knowledge, and information.

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Growth

All students in 9th – 11th grades complete computer-adaptive assessments that align to Nebraska academic standards in reading, mathematics and science. The real-time results provide information on which skills students are ready to learn next, student achievement levels, a student's relative strengths and weaknesses, reading levels, national comparisons, and student growth over time. This assessment is completed a minimum of two times per year.

HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

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Practice ACT

Throughout the school year, students in 10th - 12th grades complete items from retired ACT tests. These practice test items prepare students for the state ACT test administered in the spring of the 11th grade year. Subjects include reading, English, mathematics, and science.

PreACT

In the Fall, all students in 10th grade complete the PreACT test. This standardized test is used to expose students to the rigors of the ACT assessment and to project future success on the ACT. Results inform teachers and students of relative strengths and weaknesses.

Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT)

In October, students in 10th and 11th grades who elect to participate may complete the PSAT/NMSQT test. This is a standardized test administered by the College Board and co-sponsored by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. The scores are used to determine eligibility and qualification for the National Merit Scholarship Program.

WPS Student Survey

In the fall and early spring, students in 9th – 12th grades complete this web-based student survey. The survey addresses four main areas: Academics, Activities/Athletics, Safety/Kindness, and Future. The information provides student engagement information to our counseling department and district.





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