



District Curriculum Assessments (DCAs): A Data-Driven Approach to Instruction

A beginning-of-the-year i-Ready or MAP (NWEA) diagnostic assessment is a standardized test that identifies students' current academic strengths and weaknesses in reading and math, providing a baseline for the school year. These diagnostics are important because they help teachers understand individual learning needs, personalize instruction, monitor student growth over time, and make informed decisions to support each student's academic journey.

Key Components and Structure

The DCA program is designed to be fully integrated with our district's curriculum, ensuring that assessments directly reflect what is being taught in the classroom.

- **Comprehensive Coverage:** DCAs are administered across four core subjects, Reading Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. RLA and math are administered in kindergarten through high school. Science and Social Studies are administered in targeted grade levels. This broad scope allows us to monitor progress and achievement consistently across the entire district.
- **Planned Assessment Intervals:** Assessments are strategically scheduled to align with the completion of specific instructional units or modules. This pacing ensures that the data collected is relevant and timely, providing timely feedback on a student's mastery of specific content standards. We assess each grade level by content 2-3 times each 9 weeks.
- **Assessment Length:** The length of a DCA will depend on the grade level, content, and skills being assessed.
 - K-2 is approximately 10-15 questions
 - 3-5 is approximately 10-15 questions
 - 6-8 is approximately 10-12 questions
 - HS is approximately 10-24 questions
- **STAAR Aligned Assessments and Questions:** DCAs include STAAR aligned items, incorporating new STAAR formatted item types such as short and extended constructed responses. The STAAR aligned questions come from former STAAR assessments and the TEKS Banks both found within Edugence.
- **Common Data System:** DCAs are administered through the Edugence platform. This common approach allows for efficient data collection and rapid reporting, enabling school and district leaders to analyze trends and make data-informed decisions in a timely manner. The Edugence platform mimics Cambium so that students become familiar with the look and feel of a digital platform.
- **Process for Scaffolding TEKS:** DCA data is pulled within 24 hours from when the data is due in Edugence. Within 72 hours, curriculum coordinators analyze the data and create plans to reteach and reassess low performing standards through the tracking of Quick Checks.



Curriculum & Instruction
Duncanville Independent School District