

The Recent History of State Assessment and Changes in the Tomahawk School District

During the 2012-2013 school year:

- The **WKCE** was given to grades 3-8 and 10 in the fall.
- **PALs** testing was given to students 4K-K two times per year.
- **WAA** testing was given to special education students with significant cognitive disabilities in grades 3-8 and 10, instead of the **WKCE**.
- **ACCESS** testing was administered to our **ELL** students in the winter.

These were all required state assessments.

District assessment data collected included:

- **AIMS web testing** in two math areas and two reading areas for all students in grades 6-8 three times per year,
- **F+P** testing in grades K-5 three times per year and
- math assessment data on every unit in math grades K-5.
- **MAP** assessment was purchased and administered in language arts, reading, and math to select grades in the elementary during second semester.

I could be missing some, I wasn't the C+A director then.

During the 2013-2014 school year:

- The **WKCE** was given to grades 3-8 and 10 in the fall.
- **PALs** testing was given to students 4K-1 twice per year, one grade voluntarily gave the assessment three times.
- **WAA** testing was given to special education students with significant cognitive disabilities in grades 3-8 and 10, instead of the **WKCE**.
- **ACCESS** testing was administered in the winter to our **ELL** students.

These were all required state assessments.

District assessment data collected included:

- **AIMSweb** testing only for students receiving interventions in grades 6-8,
 - second semester in the elementary by teachers who volunteered to give **aimsweb** testing and progress monitoring a try.
- **F+P** testing in grades 3-5 was replaced with **aimsweb** testing by second semester, and we ended the practice of collecting math assessment data on every unit in math grades K-5.
- **MAP** assessments were administered to all students grades 2-8 three times in Language Arts, Reading, and Math.

Current school year

2014-2015: The new educator effectiveness laws went into effect, as did changes in state testing. I will reflect these changes in a spreadsheet form. We stopped requiring **F+P** testing of every student at every grade level in the elementary. Below you will find the law and important DPI rules on this.

<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/115/II/415>

State statute 115.415 requires that teachers be evaluated using the DPI established or adopted teacher evaluation system (educator effectiveness, two options: Teachscape or My Learning Plan) and the law that require that 50% of the evaluation be based on student performance.

<http://ee.dpi.wi.gov/teacher/teacher-outcomes>

DPI's rules on what is student performance data (Student learning objectives comprising 45% of evaluations).

<http://ee.dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/ee/pdf/UseAssessmentsSupportSLOProcess.pdf>

The **SLO Process** and a Balanced Assessment Framework: the word assess appears 94 times in this 8 page document. During the 5 step process, the DPI outlines the need to assess students 4 times over the course of the year. This is further complicated by the requirement that principals need school wide data for their building **SLOs**.

Our staff uses **MAP**, **AIMSweb**, **PALS**, or other common assessments to meet the requirements for **SLOs**. Assessments must be given a minimum of three times a year to meet the requirements of this rule, and the DPI suggests 4 to 5 times a year is better.

The Future

2015-2016: Rumors are flying around what will happen for the 2015-2016 school year. Odds are good some things will change. For certain, we will be giving **ACCESS** testing 2.0 next year, which is an electronic version of the **ACCESS** test for our **ELL** students. Beyond that, we are being told everything will remain the same as the 2014-2015 school year.

Definitions:

- **ACCESS:** Testing for students who have English as their second language.
- **AIMSweb:** A compilation of 4 assessments that assess areas in reading and math, that take approximately 5min to administer and will be used to track students as they receive interventions. This assessment meets a requirement of the new special education law to qualify students with learning disabilities for special education services.
- **Smarter Balanced assessment:** The state has renamed this the Badger Exam.
- **ELL :** English Language Learners (students who have English as their second language)
- **F&P:** Fountas and Pinnell assessment, this is an excellent reading assessment that can take an hour or more per child to administer.
- **MAP:** Measures of Academic Progress assessment. A very common exam given to students across the nation to measure achievement on common core standards. It is so common, that the department of instruction has started a pilot program that allows schools to import their MAP data to the state assessment dashboard site.
- **PALS:** Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening. A reading assessment given to students 4K-2.
- **SLO:** Student Learning Objective for teachers, School Learning Objective for principals.
- **WAA:** Wisconsin Alternative Assessment. Assessment given to special needs students that are not capable of taking regular state assessments.
- **WKCE:** Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam. State test that we still are required to administer to students in grades 4, 8, and 10 on Science and Social Studies curriculum from 1998.