

District Assessment Report – April 2025

To: Kasie Luke
and LPSD School Board Members

From: Moon McCarley, Director of
Assessment

Included with this report is a glossary of assessment types. Different types of assessments have different purposes, different types of results, and different methods. I've identified the type and purpose of the assessments included in this report.

There are many factors that contribute to "test scores." These include student attendance, instructional days, how much time a teacher has to devote to each level, teacher turnover, teacher experience, socio-economic factors, nutrition, and even anomalies that happen on the day of the test.

NWEA MAP Growth Assessments – Students in grades K-9 – Used to make instructional decisions for individual students, classes, and schools.

- MAP Growth assessments are a combination of norm reference and criterion reference which gives us achievement scores (how well a student knows grade level standards) and growth scores (how a student's individual knowledge is growing, regardless of state grade level.)
- Spring benchmark data for students in grades 3-9 will come from the AK STAR assessment in Language Arts and Math.
- Students in grades K-2 will take the MAP Growth mathematics benchmark the week of April 21, 2025.

AK Star and Alaska Science Assessment – Students in grades 3-10 – Used to inform decisions at the district and state level.

- AK Star and Alaska Science Assessment will be given the week of April 7, 2025
- The AK STAR and the Alaska Science Assessment are both criterion referenced assessments.
- All LPSD schools started testing during the week of April 7. As of the writing of this report, eight schools completed assessments. Three schools will be finishing make up assessments the week of April 14.
- Scores for these assessments will be publicly available in September 2025.

Amplify mClass with Dibels 8 – Students in grades K-3 – Used to make instructional decisions at the student, class, and school level.

- Amplify data is used to identify student learning needs in the area of early reading. This data is used to guide specific reading instruction for primary students.
- Amplify mClass is a criterion reference assessment that also provides comparisons to similar student groups (like a norm reference assessment.)

ADP - Alaska Developmental Profile – Kindergarten students - Used to provide a baseline skill level for students entering kindergarten.

- The ADP is an observational assessment that provides baseline data without a typical "score" as a result.

- District level ADP data is available here: <https://education.alaska.gov/assessment-results/ADP/ADPResults?DistrictYear=2024-2025&DistrictId=30>

DLM -Alternative Assessment, Dynamic Learning Maps – Select students in grades 3-10

- LPSD has no students taking the DLM this year.

NAEP- The National Assessment of Education Progress – Select student in select grades – Used to compare nations, have a single comparable measure across the country, and to inform decisions at the national level.

- NAEP is criterion reference assessment.
- The NAEP assessment is the only assessment that is given nationally. Most often, when someone is citing national scores, they are talking about NAEP scores.
- In a given year the NAEP is administered to about 3% of 4th and 8th graders across the country.
- In a year when LPSD is selected to participate in NAEP 3-5 students in 2-3 schools take the test.
- The interactive Alaska state profile for NAEP assessments administered in fy24 is available here:
https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/profiles/stateprofile/overview/AK?cti=PgTab_OT&sub=MAT&chort=1&st=MN&sfj=NP&sj=AK

Alaska Reads Act

- Here's the link to DEED's Alaska Reads Act pages: <https://education.alaska.gov/akreads>

Please contact me if you would like to further discuss any of these assessments, the resulting data, or anything related to LPSD's administration of the Alaska Reads Act.

Available results for any statewide assessment can be accessed here:

<https://education.alaska.gov/assessments/results>

AK STAR and Alaska Science Assessment		
4/7/25 - 4/11/25	AK STAR Language Arts	3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th
	AK STAR Mathematics	3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th
	Alaska Science Assessment	5th, 8th, 10th
Spring Benchmark		
4/21/25 - 4/25/25	Amplify mCLASS w/ DIBELS 8	K-3 (Grades 4&5 optional)
	NWEA MAP Growth Language 2+	2nd
	NWEA MAP Growth Math K-2	K, 1st, 2nd

Glossary of assessment terms:

Formative Assessment – ongoing monitoring of student learning used to make changes to instructions and provide timely feedback for students. Examples are; teachers asking questions, having students write a few sentences about what they learned, checking a student's homework, observing students doing a task. It happens throughout each day. Teachers may use it to make immediate changes to what they are teaching and/or to inform future instructional planning. It's most impactful for students when they get feedback about their progress.

Interim Assessments – assessments used to measure where students are in their learning and predict success on summative assessments and other educational measures. These are usually given at specific intervals. Examples are; benchmark assessments (MAP Growth) and progress monitoring of intervention programs. These give teachers objective measures of student academic progress. Both teachers and students can see if they are "on the right track." These are most impactful when they are used by educators to change or continue with specific instructional plans.

Summative Assessments – assessments used at the end of an instructional unit to measure learning, mastery, skills acquired, etc. They are generally only given once. Examples are; End of Levels, chapter tests, mid-terms/finals, the PEAKS assessment. These are not intended to be given frequently or repeatedly. Summative assessments are often standardized in what they measure and how. This means they are very objective but not always individualized for different learning needs. They are a valuable *part* of an overall data system.

Criterion Reference Assessment – A criterion referenced assessment measures whether or not a student has mastered a fixed criteria or standard. Example: A 3rd grade reading standard is "Read grade-appropriate irregularly spelled words." A criterion reference assessment would provide a predetermined list of 3rd grade appropriate irregularly spelled words. If the student can read the words they pass. If they can't, they don't.

Norm Reference Assessment – A norm referenced assessment measures how well a student compares to other, similar students, in their understanding of specific standards. Example: With the same standards as above – A student is presented with the same list of words. They read as many of the words as they can. This number is compared to how many words other 3rd graders can accurately read. The results are a percentile.