

2016-2017 Assessment Rationale for SCS:

ASSESSMENT:	PURPOSE AND USE OF ASSESSMENT:	RESULTS
NWEA (Northwest Educational Association) MAP Formative Assessment	The NWEA MAP assessment is an adaptive, norm-referenced formative assessment that is given to students in grades K-12. This assessment provides data on current student achievement and growth in reading and math. NWEA MAP is used as a tool to help teachers make class-level and student-level instructional decisions and is also used as a general screener to identify candidates for intervention. This assessment is given 3 times per year in the fall, winter, and spring.	Student-level results are available immediately after each testing window, and schools are encouraged to share results with students and parents.
KEFT (Kindergarten Entry Inventory Field Test) Assessment	The Kindergarten Entry Inventory (KEI) is given to provide a comprehensive, developmental profile with specific benchmarks related to kindergarten readiness for each incoming kindergarten student in Tennessee. The information that is gathered will be used to consider how children's early learning experiences affect preparation for kindergarten and inform kindergarten teachers of each student's foundational skills in literacy and language development, math and cognition, social-emotional development, and physical development. Only select schools will participate in this kindergarten assessment field test during the 2016-17 school year.	The data from the field test will be used inform the continued development of this new instrument which will be fully implemented during the 2017-2018 school year.
ASVAB	The ASVAB assessment is offered in SCS high schools, but the test is optional. No student is required to take the ASVAB. The test measures aptitude in a number of areas including math, reading comprehension, and science. The test results are used for career exploration. For students interested in a military career, the test can be used as a military entrance exam.	Test results are available to students within 2 weeks of testing.
easyCBM (RTI ²) (Academics Department)	The easyCBM assessment is used to measure and monitor the progress of students who have been identified as candidates for intervention based on results from the NWEA MAP assessment. These students receive progress monitoring and support based on their tier level (Tier II or Tier III). This assessment is given 3 times per year in the fall, winter, and spring.	Student level results are available soon after testing, and schools are encouraged to share results with students and parents.
PSAT	The PSAT is available for 10th and 11th grade students (October 15 or October 19, 2016 depending on the date chosen by the school). The PSAT is a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT. It also gives 11th grade students a chance to enter NMSC scholarship programs and gain access to college and career planning tools. The PSAT/NMSQT measures critical reading skills, math problem-solving skills, and writing skills. This assessment is not required by the state or the district.	Students may acquire their scores online. Student results are available 2 to 4 weeks after the administration of the assessment.
ACT	The ACT measures college readiness. The ACT plays an important role in the college admissions process and is one factor that determines HOPE scholarship eligibility. Eleventh grade students in SCS will take this assessment on March 21, 2017 (or on the make-up day April 19, 2017). This year, ACT will offer a retake opportunity for seniors (these are students who took the ACT during the 2015-2016 school year as 11th grade students). The senior retake opportunity is scheduled for Saturday, October 22, which is a national ACT testing date.	Reports are provided to the student approximately three to eight weeks after the administration of the assessment by ACT.
United States Civics Test	Starting in January 2017, all TN public high schools must administer a civics test that will include 25-50 questions drawn from the U.S. citizenship test. All high school students are expected to participate, and students must correctly answer at least 70 percent of the questions on the test to earn a passing score. A student may participate in the test as many times as necessary to earn a passing score. However, a passing score is NOT required for graduation.	Students will be provided with scores soon after testing.
NAEP TUDA (National Assessment of Educational Progress Trial Urban District Assessment)	Shelby County Schools is now a part of NAEP TUDA. The TUDA program is a subsection of NAEP that provides assessment results to participating districts. Shelby County is 1 of 27 participating districts that has been selected for NAEP TUDA. SCS's participation in TUDA will broaden NAEP's ability to report the educational progress of large urban school districts across the country and will allow SCS to compare its results with other similar districts. The testing will focus on fourth and eighth grade students, and not all students in those grades will participate in NAEP testing. A sample of schools will be selected, and a sample of students from those schools will test.	NAEP TUDA results are reported for the nation, state, and district.
TCAP ELA Grades 3-8 Writing Field Test or TCAP EOC U.S. History Written Response Field Test	The Tennessee Department of Education is field testing ELA writing items and U.S. History written response items. SCS may be asked to participate in one or both of these field tests. Field testing is used to identify valid items that can be used in future testing.	We will not receive results from the field tests. The field tests are used only to identify items for future testing.
WIDA ACCESS	The WIDA ACCESS exam is an annual English language proficiency assessment for English Language Learners (ELL). In the 2014-2015 school year, the department of education transitioned from the ELDA assessment for ELL students to the WIDA Access assessment. This assessment determines English language proficiency levels. ELL students are assessed annually in grades kindergarten through twelve. Kindergarten students will be assessed via paper/pencil, and grades one through twelve will be assessed online.	In the summer of 2017 districts will receive individual performance reports which detail ELL student progress in English language proficiency. Schools will share the individual score reports with students and parents.
TCAP ALT Assessment	Alternate assessments are designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities. In previous years, a portfolio would have been submitted for these students, but in 2016-17, SCS students who qualify will participate in alternate assessments. Approximately 1% of students across the state of Tennessee will take these alternate assessments instead the standard TCAP assessments. The alternate assessments are designed to help students with significant cognitive disabilities take the tests as independently as possible. Qualifying students in SCS will participate in the following two assessments: Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) in ELA, writing, and mathematics (Grades 3-8, 11), and the TCAP Alternate for Science and Social Studies (Grades 3-8, Grade 10 Science).	Results should be available in the fall of 2017.

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<p align="center">TCAP Grades 3-8 and TCAP End-of-Course (ELA, math, science, and social studies)</p>	<p>During the 2015-16 school year, TNReady became the state's standardized assessment for English language arts and math in grades 3-12. Due to complications with the state's vendor, the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) decided to terminate the contract and pursue a new vendor. For the 2016-17 school year, TCAP assessments will be taken using the new vendor Questar. All subjects (English language arts, math, science, and social studies) will be assessed using this vendor. These assessments are designed to assess student achievement during the 2016-17 school year. Students in grades 3-8 will take English language arts (ELA), math, and science operational tests. In contrast, the social studies test in grades 3-8 will be a field test for which we will not receive scores. The field test will be used to prepare for an operational social studies test in 2017-18. All high school End of Course tests will be operational and will be used to assess students enrolled in the following subjects: English I, English II, English III, Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, U.S. History, Biology, and Chemistry. Grades 3-8 students will test via paper and pencil. The Tennessee Department of Education is planning to offer an online option and paper option for high school assessments, and the SCS district is planning to administer these assessments via paper and pencil.</p>	<p>Students score reports for the high school End of Course tests and grades 3-8 science tests should be available early in the summer of 2017. Because the ELA and math tests in grades 3-8 are new, scores for these tests will not be available until the fall of 2017. We will not receive results from the grades 3-8 social studies field tests.</p>
<p align="center">TCAP Grade 2 Assessment (Questar)</p>	<p>During the 2016-2017 school year, districts have the option of giving a new grade 2 assessment. In the past, students participated in the SAT 10 assessment for 1st and 2nd grade. The new assessment will not include first grade testers and will only focus on those students who are enrolled in second grade. This assessment will be a criterion-referenced assessment (unlike the previous norm-referenced assessment) that will assess TN state standards in both ELA (comprehension, foundational literacy skills, language, writing, listening, and foundational literacy fluency) and math (computation with whole numbers, number relationships and patterns, measurement concepts, and data and geometry concepts). SCS is currently deciding whether to participate in this optional assessment.</p>	<p>Results should be available in the fall of 2017.</p>
<p align="center">AP (Advanced Placement) Exams</p>	<p>High school students who are enrolled in Advanced Placement courses will take AP exams. These exams are required for all students that are enrolled in AP courses, as results from these assessments will be used to help determine eligibility for college credits. Students will take these assessments via paper and pencil beginning in early May.</p>	<p>Students and parents may view AP scores online at ap.score.collegeboard.org/scores starting in July of the year that exams were administered. The online score report will include student scores from the last four years.</p>