

TUCSON UNIFIED

SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION
Assessment & Program Evaluation (A&E)

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2019-20

Dear TUSD Families,

Tucson Unified School District assesses students' mastery of Arizona's state standards in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math using district tests known as Benchmark Assessments. Here are some facts to know about these TUSD Benchmark Assessments:

- ✓ This school year, **Quarter 1 Benchmarks will be administered Sep. 23- Oct. 3; Quarter 2 Benchmarks will be administered Dec. 9-19 (Writing Dec. 2-19); Quarter 3 Benchmarks will be administered Feb. 24-Mar. 6. Q2 Benchmarks are optional for High Schools.**
- ✓ TUSD teachers developed these assessments in collaboration with TUSD's Curriculum & Instruction and Assessment & Program Evaluation departments.
- ✓ Teachers aligned Benchmark Assessments to TUSD's curriculum and Arizona State Standards.
- ✓ Students in grades 2-10 take the ELA Benchmarks quarterly. ELA 11 Benchmarks are optional (site admin determination). *English Learners (EL) do NOT take ELA Benchmarks, because they have program-specific assessments.
- ✓ All Students in grades 2-10 take Math Benchmarks quarterly. Algebra 2 Benchmarks are optional (site admin determination).
- ✓ All students in grades 2-10 take Writing Benchmarks, which are given only during the second quarter. Writing 11 is optional (site admin determination).
- ✓ Teachers administer Benchmarks to students using computers. Grade 2 has the option to take the Writing Benchmark on paper.
- ✓ Teachers may use students' academic performance data to evaluate mastery of assessed state standards and/or to make data-driven instructional decisions and adjustments.
- ✓ Students gain experience during Benchmark testing with Computer Based Tests (CBTs) and testing conditions in advance of and as additional preparation for Arizona state tests.

Please contact your child's teacher or principal with any additional questions you may have regarding TUSD's Benchmark Assessments.