

Westside Community Schools Glossary of Assessment Terms

Assessment – The systematic process of observing learning and gathering information. In education, typically we are gathering information about what students know and are able to do.

Standardized Assessment/Testing – Gathering information under a standardized set of conditions (items/tasks, administration, and scoring). This allows us to make comparisons between test scores.

Norm-Referenced Testing/Assessment (NRT or NRA) – Assigning meaning to a student's performance by comparing this performance to other students who took the same test under the same testing conditions. Percentile Ranks and Standard Scores are the typically used for reporting.

Criterion-Referenced Testing/Assessment (CRT or CRA) – Assigning meaning to a student's performance by comparing this performance to a predetermined set of criterion. Performance levels are typically used for reporting (met vs. not met; beginning, progressing, proficient, and advanced).

Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA) – State assessments, designed to measure proficiency; administered in grades 3 through 8 and 11. Reading (NeSA-R), Math (NeSA-M), Writing (NeSA-W), and Science (NeSA-SC).

Common Assessments – Developed by Westside Community Schools' staff to measure outcomes associated with WCS curriculum. Administered in various grades and typically embedded in courses.

Classroom Assessments – Assessments developed and used by classroom teachers. Assessments may be developed and implemented by members of Grade Level or Professional Learning Communities, and/or individual teachers.

Formative Assessment Processes (Assessment for Learning) – Assessments are used by teachers and their students to gather information to be used as feedback during the process of a unit or a course. Adjustments are made in instruction to support additional learning and to close identified learning gaps.

Summative Assessment Processes (Assessment of Learning) – When assessment results are used to determine how much students have learned at a particular point in time in order to report achievement status.

Evaluation – A systematic judgment about the amount, number, and/or value of something/assessment. When we are assigning grades we are engaging in evaluation.