

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING PROGRESS

Teachers and principals talk a lot about assessments, which are used to measure students' academic achievement.

As a parent and your child's first teacher, you should be

***Parents are
their child's
first teacher***

informed of the assessment and accountability system that is in place in your child's school.

The Kansas Assessment Program (KAP) includes a variety of tests aligned to the statewide Kansas Curricular Standards. KAP

tests are designed to support educators and policymakers in measuring student learning.

In Kansas, students are assessed annually in the following content areas:

- English Language Arts: Grades 3-8 and 10.
- Mathematics: Grades 3-8 and 10.
- Science: Grades 5, 8 and 11.

Each spring, your child will take state tests at their school. The results will be reported back to you through the school.

The examination scores will show how your child is doing in the tested areas. It is important to note that not all academic standards will be covered in each of the tested subjects. If you have questions about test scores, be sure to talk to your child's teacher, guidance counselor, school principal or district assessment coordinator.

Preparing and Supporting Your Child

- Review the testing calendar and work with your child's school to ensure there will be regular and clear communications from the school on assessments, the results and how they are used.
- Discuss the tests with your children.
- Tell your child you have high expectations and you and the teachers are there to help every step of the way.
- Make sure your child has a comfortable place for studying and is prepared mentally and physically for a test.
- Read all comments written by the teacher on classroom lessons and tests.
- Monitor your child's progress and regularly communicate with your child's teachers.
- With older children, explain that the assessments make sure they are on track to succeed after graduation and to identify any issues early enough to give them more support.
- Remember that tests are not perfect measures of what a child can do---there are many other factors that might influence a test score.
- Meet with your child's teacher as often as possible to discuss progress.
- Review the test scores with your child and their teacher.

Since families/caregivers will always be their children's most important teacher, it is a good idea to learn more about the Kansas testing system, so you can help your child get the most from their education.

