Formative Assessment Tools

Formative Content Bank · Testlets · Benchmarks
A Comprehensive Approach

Formative assessment is the cornerstone of differentiated instruction, helping teachers meet students where they are for effective teaching and learning. Measured Progress FLORIDA STANDARDS Assessments content offers a comprehensive set of formative tools to support educators in uncovering student thinking. Using the data from our assessments, teachers can successfully plan individual, small-group, and whole-class instruction.

The three components of our program support college- and career-ready standards and next-generation assessments. All of the items and tasks in the Measured Progress FLORIDA STANDARDS Assessments are aligned to the LAFS and MAFS and support instruction at higher content complexity levels.

Our Formative Content Bank allows teachers to search by content area, item type, standard, and DOK level to create customized assessments or use individual items for daily instruction.

Testlets are short quizzes that support formative assessment practices by assessing a targeted set of standards within domains and clusters, providing a snapshot of student understanding.

Benchmarks may be administered up to four times each year. These forms allow for in-depth coverage of more than one set of standards, paced to the scope and sequence of the Florida standards progression.

Our content can be accessed on computers, tablets and/or mobile devices. Students can also take Testlets and/or Benchmarks in a pencil-and-paper format.
Our Content

Measured Progress FLORIDA STANDARDS Assessments content stands out because:

- All of our items are developed based on the Florida standards and offer the deep level of rigor and cognitive complexity required.
- All reading passages are authentic and have been permissioned.
- None of our items are clone items.
- Items are developed following the principles of Universal and evidence-centered design.

Items undergo multiple reviews by content specialists and professional editors, ensuring that they:

- Contain precisely defined constructs and are accessible, non-biased, and amenable to accommodations.
- Provide maximum readability and comprehensibility, and display maximum legibility.
- Are unambiguous, and free of grammatical errors and potentially insensitive content or language.
- Have accurate answer keys.

Getting our Items and Assessments

Measured Progress has several partner platform providers that support the delivery of FLORIDA STANDARDS Assessments components. We follow IMS Global Learning Consortium specifications and offer Question and Test Interoperability™ v.2.1 (QTI) packages for deployment on your existing assessment platform.

Measured Progress FLORIDA STANDARDS Assessments content is interoperable, configurable, and actionable.

QTI v.2.1 is the most widely adopted assessment interoperability standard in the assessment industry. Our QTI packages facilitate sharing among authoring systems, repositories, delivery systems, and learning management systems—offering districts the highest possible level of interoperability.

All of our items contain metadata that allow you to create and customize your own tests, choosing items by various attributes such as DOK level, item type, and standards addressed. This gives you the flexibility to design tests that align to your curriculum.

Our content gives insight into student thinking and allows educators to take immediate and purposeful instructional action. Our assessments provide data and tools for collaboration to inform both short- and long-term instructional decisions.

To learn more about our assessment platform partners, please visit measuredprogress.org/partners.

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The **Formative Content Bank** includes reading and math items that cover Florida standards in grades 1 through 12. The **Formative Content Bank** is updated regularly with new items that add innovative interactions and expand standards coverage.

- Items may be chosen by content area, grade level, standard, DOK level, and/or item type, giving teachers the flexibility to gather evidence of student understanding using different item types of varying levels of complexity.
- Each selected-response item includes distractor rationales that allow teachers to gauge students' misconceptions. Constructed- and extended-response items and performance tasks include rubrics and scoring notes that offer educators opportunities to practice scoring consistency.

### Use the table to answer the question.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planet</th>
<th>Density (g/cm³)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mercury</td>
<td>5.427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venus</td>
<td>5.204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth</td>
<td>5.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neptune</td>
<td>1.638</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table shows the densities of some planets in our solar system.

a. What is the written form for the number that represents the density of Venus in grams per cubic centimeter?

b. Which planet has the greatest density? Show your work or explain your reasoning.

c. A scientist determined that the density of a certain asteroid is between the density of Mercury and Earth. What could the density of this asteroid be? Provide a logical explanation for your answer.

**Why use the Formative Content Bank?**

Teachers can create their own reading and math assessments to assess a broad range of skills or a particular cluster or standard. Teachers can integrate individual items into instruction, or use them as exemplars for teaching the genre of assessment. The variety of uses provides information to plan instruction for tomorrow, next week, or next term.

The questions require students to understand new content and focus on standards that pose challenges. Students and teachers get instant feedback on individual progress, allowing for deep engagement in the formative assessment feedback loop.

Students' work here is scaffolded by first working through procedural skills using standard steps. Then, in parts b and c, students build on the foundational skills by applying their understanding to content at a higher cognitive level.

Open-ended items invite a wider range of solutions and solution methods than do more traditional assessment items; they are better at revealing students' understanding of mathematics.
**Testlets**

**Testlets** are quizzes that demonstrate how well students grasp concepts in a specific cluster or domain. Educators may administer **Testlets** frequently to quickly analyze results and direct both individual and small-group instruction.

- Reading **Testlets** cover the three reading anchor standards: key ideas and details, craft and structure, and integration of knowledge and ideas. Each reading **Testlet** includes six selected-response items and one constructed-response item.
- Math **Testlets** each cover one cluster of standards; each cluster has major emphasis in the Florida standards. Math **Testlets** include three selected-response and three short-answer items, and one constructed-response item.

**Why use Testlets?**

**Testlets** provide a snapshot of how students are progressing on particular sets of standards and give valuable insight into how to focus instruction. Teachers get immediate feedback on a set of skills without having to create an assessment from scratch. Formative Support Tools included with **Testlets** help engage students and teachers in the formative assessment process.

**What comes with Testlets?**

In addition to test forms, **Testlets** include these components:

- **BLUEPRINT**: Identifies a **Testlet**'s design, item types, DOK levels, and anchor and target standards.
- **DISTRACTOR RATIONALES AND SCORING GUIDES**: Help teachers uncover student misconceptions. Rubrics, sample responses, and scoring notes illustrate the level of rigor required by each constructed-response item and help teachers score these items consistently.
- **FORMATIVE SUPPORT TOOLS**: Empower students to take ownership of their learning. Teachers can use guides and templates included with each set of **Testlets** to share learning targets, analyze student responses, and provide formative feedback. Students can use their own set of tools to clarify learning expectations, provide and receive feedback on their instructional needs, identify learning goals, and monitor their own progress.

**Using Testlets, you can:**

- Quickly assess a target group of standards in grades 3 through 8 and high school.
- Address a range of cognitive complexity in a short form.
- Deliver assessments in paper-and-pencil format or online.
- Use class time efficiently; each **Testlet** can be completed in 20 to 30 minutes.
**Benchmarks** (grades 3 through 8) monitor students’ understanding of Florida reading and math standards before students are evaluated on summative assessments. Unique forms may be administered up to four times a year and can be completed in just one class period. They provide instructional feedback about the scope and sequence of a district’s curriculum and instruction.

- Math **Benchmarks** cover all domains in mathematics, with a focus on the major standards emphasized at each grade level.
- Reading **Benchmarks** cover all three domains in reading: key ideas and details, craft and structure, and integration of knowledge and ideas. Passages increase in text and reader task complexity throughout the year.
Why choose Measured Progress?

For more than 30 years, Measured Progress has worked with districts, states, and consortia to develop content and assessments with a reputation for quality. You can rely on our content to help you improve student learning in classrooms throughout your district.

Why use Benchmarks?

*Benchmarks* provide teachers with a common measure for instructional feedback across grade levels, schools, and districts as part of a comprehensive assessment program. They follow the recommended scope and sequence outlined in the Measured Progress Florida *Standards Pacing Guide*.

The *Standards Pacing Guide* was informed by research conducted by the Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas and outlines the standards included in each reading and math *Benchmarks* form. Standards are grouped to coordinate with intervals of instruction, ensuring that key standards and appropriate text complexity are addressed during the academic year. *Benchmarks* are paced to follow a logical sequence of instruction that coincides with the learning progressions outlined in college- and career-ready standards.

Using *Benchmarks*, teachers can:

- Assess students with constructed-response and evidence-based selected-response items, in addition to traditional selected-response items.
- Better determine which Florida standards can be assessed, and when.
- Address a range of cognitive demand (DOK level) in each form.
- Address multiple sets of standards.

**Assessment Services**

Our experts can also help you use our content to create benchmark assessments that align to your pacing and curriculum.
Across the United States, educators are discovering the effectiveness of our formative assessment tools.

Measured Progress, a not-for-profit organization, is a pioneer in authentic, standards-based assessments. Since 1983, we have successfully partnered with more than 30 states and hundreds of districts across the nation to support their assessment programs. Today, we develop 21st-century assessments for classrooms, districts, states, and consortia. We are proud to be the nation’s leading provider of alternate assessments for students with cognitive disabilities.

Measured Progress connects the K–12 educational community with innovative and flexible assessment solutions. Our goal is to provide meaningful information about student progress to improve teaching and learning.

It’s all about student learning. Period.

Learn more:
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