Using Educator Feedback to Improve District Assessments

The Common Learning Assessments (CLAs) for English Language Arts, Mathematics and Spanish Language Arts were administered to SFUSD students in grades 2 through 11 during the 2013-2014 school year. At the end of each academic year, educators are surveyed on their experience with the CLAs. This feedback is used to improve the content, structure and administration of these annually-revised assessments.

Over 200 educators responded to the CLA survey for 2013-2014. The feedback provided has been reviewed by the Assessments Office and the Humanities and Mathematics Departments and used to inform changes to the CLAs for 2014-2015.

Educators reported appreciating having data on student progress at regular intervals. One educator noted that "they can be very helpful when the questions correspond to the units of study which I am teaching," but as many educators pointed out the tests must align "to what we are teaching." In response to this feedback, all CLAs have been substantially revised by teams of educators led by the Curriculum and Instruction division to ensure close alignment to the district Core Curriculum materials.

Heeding the advice of educators that "the multiple choice needs to be less if the open response is to be added," tests were revised to include fewer multiple choice and more item types such as constructed response and performance tasks.

Finally, hearing the concern that "the CLA schedule does not allow for any flexibility in the instruction of the grade level curriculum," assessment windows were expanded for the 2014-2015 year.

To view a full summary of survey feedback, go to:
District.sfusd.edu/dept/rpa/aa0/cla

Revised Assessment Windows Allow for Alignment to Instruction

The new CLA Administration Windows have been determined based on district-wide instructional pacing recommendations while taking into consideration district-wide administration and data reporting needs.

Scheduling
Sites are encouraged to develop an assessment administration schedule within these windows that is in line with grade level instruction as outlined in the SFUSD Core Curriculum materials for English Language Arts and Mathematics. Please review the specific pacing guidelines for each grade as outlined in the SFUSD Core Curricula for English Language Arts and Mathematics when selecting assessment administration dates. Note that it may be instructionally appropriate for assessment dates to vary by grade and content area within an assessment window.

Materials
As in previous years, all required assessment materials will be provided by the Achievement Assessments Office prior to each assessment window. Online testing options will also be available for English Language Arts, Spanish Language Arts and Mathematics for select portions of the CLAs using the new Amplify Beacon system. Information on online assessing including training on the online system will be available in the fall.

Changes At A Glance

All Subjects:
⇒ Can be taken on paper or online

ELA and SLA:
⇒ Fewer Multiple Choice
⇒ A new, more robust Constructed Response writing task with new rubrics

Math:
⇒ New tests
⇒ Fit in the units of the new Core Curriculum
⇒ Include new Multiple Correct Answer items similar to Smarter Balanced
The Common Learning Assessments (CLAs) are district-wide interim assessments in Mathematics and English Language Arts administered three times per year in elementary and middle school and two times per year in high school. The item types included in the CLAs have been expanded over the years to include more rigorous item types in which students must show their work and explain their thinking.

The components of the CLAs differ slightly between Mathematics and English Language Arts and are outlined below.

### Mathematics

**Assessed Grades:** Grades K – 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLA Part A</th>
<th>CLA Part B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>1 Performance task (which also serves as the MILESTONE TASK for predetermined units within the Mathematics Core Curriculum)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assessed Grade:** Grade 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLA Part A</th>
<th>CLA Part B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 – 12 Multiple Choice and Multiple Correct Answer Items</td>
<td>1 Performance task (which also serves as the MILESTONE TASK for predetermined units within the Mathematics Core Curriculum)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assessed Grades:** 3 – Algebra 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLA Part A</th>
<th>CLA Part B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 – 12 Multiple Choice and Multiple Correct Answer Items</td>
<td>1 – 2 Constructed Response items&lt;br&gt;1 Performance task (which also serves as the MILESTONE TASK for predetermined units within the Mathematics Core Curriculum)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### English Language Arts

**Assessed Grades:** 3 - 10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLA Part A</th>
<th>CLA Part B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 – 15 Multiple Choice Items</td>
<td>1 Constructed Response item</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Achievement Assessments Office

June, 2014