Assessments in High School

The GCPS assessment program gives teachers, parents, and the school system a look at all the pieces that create a comprehensive picture of a student’s learning throughout the year. Only a small amount of time—ranging from as little as one hour up to two hours—is actually spent testing on a given test day.

**GCPS Formative Assessments**

Formative assessments in GCPS are check-ups, which give the teacher an opportunity to see how well each student understands the curriculum and what adjustments, if any, might be needed to help students acquire the knowledge and skills they need.

- **District Pre-test**
  - Grades 9–12
  - Measures student knowledge of Academic Knowledge and Skills (AKS) prior to instruction

- **District Interim** *(given at 9 weeks and 27 weeks)*
  - Grades 9–12
  - Measures student performance of AKS at the midpoint of the semester

**GCPS Summative Assessments**

Summative assessments in GCPS measure achievement across all content areas. They help teachers and schools see students’ growth and learning throughout the year.

- **Student Performance Goals (SPGs)**
  - Grades 9–12
  - Measures student growth from pre- to post-assessment in non-state-tested subjects

- **1st and 2nd Semester Final Assessments**
  - Grades 9–12
  - Measures student mastery of AKS

- **High School Gateway**
  - Grade 10
  - Measures student achievement of AKS in Language Arts (Writing), Science, and Social Studies

**Georgia Summative Assessments**

State summative assessments measure achievement of the state standards in Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies (depending on the course taken).

- **Georgia Milestones—End of Course (EOC) Assessments**
  - Grade 9–12
  - Measures knowledge of Georgia Standards of Excellence in designated high school level courses

- **ACCESS for English Language Learners (ELLs)**
  - All grades
  - Measures English language proficiency

- **Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA)**
  - Grade 11
  - Assesses students with cognitive disabilities on state standards

**Norm-Referenced Assessments**

Norm-referenced assessments give students, parents, and the school an opportunity to see how each student is performing compared to a hypothetical “average” student, based on data collected from students taking the same test in the same grade throughout the nation. These assessments are not used for grading or promotion; however, they help schools and teachers gain further insight into student learning.

- **PSAT/NMSQT**
  - Grade 10
  - Measures Critical Reading, Mathematics problem-solving skills, and writing skills

**Advanced Placement (AP) Tests** are summative assessments that assess students on college-level curriculum, but are not required by GCPS or the state.