

Assess to Expand Student Progress

DePaul Center for Urban Education

The instructional calendar lists the priorities for assessment each five weeks.

One week before the assessment week, teachers meet by grade level or subject to select or construct an assessment based on the instructional priorities that are identified on the calendar for their grade level. The selection and construction of the grade level assessments can be done by one teacher for each subject and then shared with the other teachers, who review and revise it as needed.

The assessment should be formative so that students have the opportunity to revise their work so that they reach mastery.

Teachers of self-contained classes should assess one subject each day and continue instruction in the other subjects.

Recommended Sequence:

- ✓ Monday—assess math
- ✓ Tuesday—assess reading
- ✓ Wednesday—assess writing
- ✓ Thursday—assess science/social studies

Based on the assessment, the teacher adjusts instruction for the rest of the week so students who need to work more intensively on a specific skill have that opportunity, working in small groups or in pairs, and others have opportunities to expand abilities.

Recommended Assessment Approaches:

Math: > Students write explanations for terms or match terms to explanations.
 > Students solve problems applying skills
 > Students write “math path”—explanation of steps to solve problems
 > Students make up questions applying the skills

Reading: > Students read text independently, write summary
 > Students define vocabulary, use words in sentences
 > Students take multiple-choice test that includes questions
 at literal, analytic, inferential, and evaluative levels

Writing: > Students write independently with skills and style of the quarter
 > Students edit written material, correcting errors

Content > Students list and define important vocabulary
 > Students give examples of important facts.
 > Students write and illustrate explanation of the topic.
 > Students make up multiple choice questions about topic.
 > Students read new text and explain how the new information relates to
 content they have learned.