

As one means of providing for a continuous and effective evaluation mechanism for the system-wide education effort, the Columbia County Board of Education (CCBOE) **shall assess all students using designated assessment instruments as required by the State Board of Education. Additionally, the CCBOE endorses a program of system-wide student assessment as a means of assessing the effectiveness of its educational programs.**

The objectives of the system Student Assessment Program shall be as follows:

- To provide basic information and **to** assess student progress so that teachers can **provide** more effective instruction.
- To assist in identifying students with special needs so that appropriate instruction may be provided.
- To provide the system and local schools with basic information for assessing and evaluating program effectiveness in sufficient detail to strengthen those programs on a continuing basis.
- To provide information to students relating to their skills and education needs.
- To provide data for generating and testing hypotheses concerning all aspects of the education process.
- To assist local schools in using recommended practices in test administration and use of test results.

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The **CCBOE** also recognizes the value of using the results of the Student Assessment Program to improve instruction at the local school level. As a means of attaining such improvement, the local Board directs that the test results be **used in concert with other information for the following purposes:**

- **To** identify individual weakness in skill development in the various basic skills assessed,
- **To** diagnose strengths and weaknesses of groups,
- **To** individualize instruction,
- **To** report progress to parents,
- **To** select curriculum materials,
- **To** set the pace of instruction,
- **To** select methods of instruction,
- To counsel students,
- **To** help determine curriculum changes needed in previous grades for basic skill development.

The **CCBOE** shall approve regulations and procedures for the administration of the Student Assessment Program and for the interpretation of the data derived from the program. In order to ensure proper administration and use of **the** Student Assessment Program test materials, these regulations and procedures shall include but not be limited to the following provisions:

The Columbia County School System (CCSS) shall test with the designated norm-referenced tests all students in grades specified by the State Board or state law.

A readiness assessment shall be administered to public school kindergartners prior to entering first grade in accordance with State Board policy.

The **CCSS** shall participate in the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) as required by the state.

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Students **with disabilities**, classified according to the Georgia Department of Education's Regulations and Procedures IDDF (Program for Exceptional Children), must be provided the opportunity to participate in the statewide testing program. Decisions related to participation of **students with disabilities** and recommendation of any **accommodations** in administration should be made and documented during the Individualized Education Program (IEP) review **or Section 504 Individual Assessment Plan (IAP)**. All **accommodations** must adhere to the guidelines found in the Student Assessment Handbook.

A limited English proficient (LEP) student may be exempted from the state testing program as specified in state regulations.

The **Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning shall supervise the CCSS Testing Program and the Student Support Team/Assessment Coordinator** shall coordinate the administration of the state student assessment program and shall be in charge of test security.

CCSS shall provide for secure storage of test materials. Only the local Superintendent or the professional staff member designated by the local Superintendent shall have access to the materials.

The Superintendent of Schools shall ensure that data derived from the Student Assessment Program are compiled, analyzed, summarized and reported to the Board annually in order to provide an overall picture of the system student achievement. Scores for individual students shall be made available **only to appropriate personnel within the system and to parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of each student as provided by law.**

PROCEDURE: YES

ADOPTED: 12/13/83

REVISED: 1/8/91, 10/1/97, 8/10/99

Columbia County Board of Education