

What are the purposes of the different kinds of tests?

There are many different types of tests, for example:

Classroom Tests

Classroom tests provide information about what students know or have learned recently.

District Tests

District tests are used for a variety of purposes, such as measuring academic growth, making instructional decisions, and looking for patterns across groups of students. They are often given across a school or district multiple times during the year.

State Tests

State tests are given to students across a state, usually near the end of the school year. They measure student learning of grade-level standards. Statewide testing is mainly meant to:

- Present a picture of how the whole state school system is performing.
- Show how well the local education system is meeting the learning needs of groups of students, like students with disabilities.

All states have a State Systemic Improvement Plan, or SSIP, to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. In some states' SSIP, data from the state tests is used to identify goals to improve student academic performance and to measure progress year to year toward those goals.

State test results should reflect the achievement of ALL students so schools can ensure that EVERY student is learning and preparing for their future. Data from state tests provides information that enables states and districts to make decisions that will help improve instruction, such as providing targeted resources to schools that need additional help.

It is important that students with disabilities participate in tests. For students with disabilities to be represented, they need to participate and be included in all test results.



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