



Covington Independent Public Schools Testing Transparency

Beginning in 1990, Kentucky chose to have an all-inclusive assessment system by having all Kentucky public school students participate in annual testing with the results of those assessments included in the state's accountability system for schools and districts. Kentucky tests students on various subjects beginning in grade 3. On average, administering Kentucky's state-level assessments takes less than one percent (1%) of the total instructional time in a given school year. The following assessments are required in Kentucky. Please refer to the Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE's) [Assessments webpage](#) and individual assessment webpages for more information. The test windows for the current school year are available on KDE's [Assessment Support webpage](#).

- [Kentucky Summative Assessment](#) (KSA) and [Alternate KSA](#)
- [College Admissions Exam](#)
- [ACCESS for ELLs](#)
- [Common Kindergarten Entry Screener \(K SCREEN\)](#)

Covington Independent Public Schools (CIPS) utilizes assessments as a vital part of each student's education. The assessments below are mandatory for our students (unless noted otherwise) and will allow CIPS staff to monitor student progress and plan instruction/supports based on student needs.

Assessment Name	Who tests	Purpose of the Assessment	Testing Window	Communication
Brigance	All kindergarten students	Required by KDE, Brigance is Kentucky's Common Kindergarten Entry Screener, which provides a quick and accurate assessment of the child's development in five areas: Academic/Cognitive, Language, Physical Development, Self-Help, and Social-Emotional Development	Must be completed by the first 30 days of school. CIPS students will complete 9/14/26 – 9/18/26	Student score report shared at Parent/Teacher conference
Star Assessments	All students K-12	Star is the universal screener for all CIPS students in reading and math. This screener	Students will complete 3 times during the year:	Student score report will be sent to



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		is used to get an accurate view of the student's abilities in reading and math so instruction can be planned to meet student needs and to monitor progress over time.	Window 1: 9/8/26 – 9/25/26 Window 2: 11/30/26 – 12/18/26 Window 3: 4/19/27 – 5/7/27	guardians at the conclusion of each testing window.
Star Curriculum-Based Measures (CBM)	All students K-12	Star CBM provides short, direct measures of specific academic skills, allowing for detailed monitoring of progress and identification of specific needs for students.	Students will complete 3 times during the year: Window 1: 9/8/26 – 9/25/26 Window 2: 11/30/26 – 12/18/26 Window 3: 4/19/27 – 5/7/27 Students will continue these assessments as needed throughout the year.	Student score report will be sent to guardians at the conclusion of each testing window, and after each assessment outside of the window.
Pearson Benchmark Assessments	All students in grades 3-8 and 11.	Pearson Benchmark assessments are used to monitor student progress on Kentucky Academic Standards in science (grades 3,4,6,7,11) and social studies (grades 5,8,11), so that instruction can be planned to meet student needs.	Students will complete 3 times during the year: Window 1: 11/4/26 – 11/17/26 Window 2: 2/8/27 – 2/19/27 Window 3: 4/13/27 – 4/30/27	Student score report will be sent to guardians at the conclusion of each testing window.
WIDA ACCESS	All English Learners (ELs) K-12	Required by KDE, WIDA ACCESS assesses English proficiency to monitor progress and so that instruction/supports can be planned to meet student needs.	1/4/27 – 2/12/27	Student score report will be sent to guardians when scores become available (usually in May)
CogAT	All 4 th grade students	The CogAT is a cognitive abilities test, which measures students' learned reasoning and problem-solving skills. This is one indicator for CIPS to determine eligibility into the CIPS Gifted/Talented Program	9/28/26 – 10/16/26	Guardians will be notified if their student is potentially eligible for Gifted/Talented services.



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Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA)	All students in grades 3-8, 10, 11	Required by KDE, the KSA assesses mastery on Kentucky Academic Standards in reading (grades 3-8, 10), math (grades 3-8, 10), science (grades 4,7,11) social studies (grades 5,8,11), and writing (grades 5,8,11)	During the final 14 instructional days of the school year. Tentative window: 5/7/27 – 5/27/27	Student score report will be delivered to guardians as they become available from KDE (November)
Alternate Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA)	Students grades 3-8, 10, 11 with moderate and significant disabilities	Required by KDE, the Alternate KSA assesses students with moderate and significant disabilities to monitor progress and so that instruction/supports can be planned to meet student needs.	Window 1: 11/9/26 – 12/18/26 Window 2: 4/12/27 – 5/26/27 Transition Attainment Record: 11/9/26 – 5/26/27	Student score report will be delivered to guardians as they become available from KDE
College Admissions Exam	All 11 th graders	Required by KDE, this exam will measure students' level of readiness for college in core academic content areas. This serves as an indicator of Postsecondary Readiness.	Spring of 2027, specific dates TBD.	Student score report will be available through the vendor
KYOTE	Select 11 th and 12 th grade students	The KYOTE is an online placement exam in math, reading, and writing, designed to measure college readiness.	Administered throughout the school year as needed	Student score report will be delivered to guardians within a week of testing.
Industry Certification Exams	Select 11 th and 12 th grade students	Industry Certification exams allow students to show mastery in a career pathway and serves as an indicator for career readiness	Spring of 2027, specific dates TBD	Student score report will be delivered to guardians within a week of testing.
End of Unit Assessments	All students K-12	End of Unit Assessments will be given to students at the end of each unit, to assess mastery of Kentucky Academic Standards and so that instruction can be planned to meet student needs	Throughout the school year	Student scores will be available through Infinite Campus



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Parents have the right to request information regarding any state and district policy regarding student participation in mandatory assessments and the district will provide this information in a timely fashion. Requests for state and Covington Independent Public Schools assessment policies can be submitted to:

Tony Magner, District Assessment Coordinator, at tony.magner@covington.kyschools.us

Please note that districts in Kentucky are not permitted to honor a parent's request to opt-out of statewide testing. Additional information is available in the [Testing Opt-out Message](#).