

# Toomer Elementary School Assessment Policy



## 1. Purpose

At Toomer Elementary, we believe assessment is necessary in order to provide adequate and differentiated instruction to all students. Assessment provides teachers with valuable feedback in order to individualize instruction. On a school-wide scale, assessment provides the Pedagogical Leadership Team with meaningful data in order to better align the practices of the building with the needs of our students. We practice two broad categories of assessments at Toomer: formative and summative assessments.

Formative assessments provide quick and relevant feedback regarding progress over a particular concept or skill. These assessments are informal and are used only to provide information to the instructor regarding how to proceed with instruction.

Summative assessments measure a student's understanding over a more extended period of time. These assessments are typically more formal and given at the end of a learning progression, unit, semester, or school year.

The purpose of the Toomer assessment policy is to:

- Create a sense of educational ownership amongst students
- Define the purpose of assessment at Toomer
- Inform parents and stakeholders of the assessment process and purpose
- Enable teachers and the pedagogical leadership team to better serve students through assessment data

## 2. Types of assessment

At Toomer, we practice two major types of assessments as outlined below:

### Formative Assessment

Formative assessments are tools used in order to guide teacher practices as well as give students ownership of their learning. As units progress, using formative assessments, both students and teachers will be aware of the current state of learning. As students and teachers better understand their progress, they will progress through units quicker and more efficiently.

Formative assessments are used to:

- Guide teacher instruction & planning
- Set goals for learning for both teachers and students
- Check for understanding throughout learning progression

- Provide a low stakes environment for students to show their understanding and/or misconceptions
- Allow teachers to provide immediate feedback regarding misconceptions so these do not grow
- Give students and teachers space to reflect upon their own teaching and learning practices

### **Summative Assessment**

Summative assessments are used to evaluate student understanding of a standard, idea, or concept at the end of a lesson progression or unit. While formative assessments often allow more flexibility when it comes to learner outcomes, these assessments compare the student work to that of a standard or benchmark in order to determine whether a goal was met.

Summative assessments are used to:

- Determine whether a standardized goal was met
- Record data at a specified date and time regarding a specific concept
- Evaluate skill achievement
- Conclude a learning progression or unit
- Provide cumulative assessment data to outside stakeholders

### **3. Assessment Practices at Toomer**

Toomer practices assessments through a variety of ways. Effective assessment practices at Toomer include:

- Formative assessments (each line of inquiry)
- Summative assessments (for each Unit of Inquiry)
- Aggressive monitoring of skill achievement and progression - this includes frequent anecdotal notes written over a period of time
- Common summative assessments
- Formative assessments are used daily to guide instruction
- Assessment of students' prior knowledge
- Providing multiple assessment opportunities in order to promote success and achievement
- Allowing students choice when it comes to displaying their knowledge
- Students receive feedback promptly and directly
- Using assessment data to guide instruction
- Create opportunities for productive struggle
- Providing clear and direct expectations for assessments in order to ensure success
- Coming together as grade level teams to create congruence and rigor among expectations

- Challenging inquiry into how things learned in school apply to real world situations
- Sustainable assessments - these are part of the school routine and do not interrupt the daily learning occurring
- Assessments are scored based on transparent, fair, and clearly stated rubrics

#### **4. Assessment Strategies and Tools**

A multitude of strategies and tools are utilized in order to assess students formally and informally. These strategies and tools provide teachers and staff with a variety of data in order to ensure instruction is efficient, rigorous, targeted, and explicit.

##### **Assessment Strategies**

- Reflections
- Peer and self assessment
- Observations and aggressive monitoring checklists
- Running records
- Writing assignments
- Open ended and performance tasks
- Quality and strategic questioning
- Selected response questions

##### **Assessment Tools**

- Rubrics
- Anecdotal forms
- Checklists
- Standardized tests
- Benchmark assessments
- Predetermined questions

#### **5. Assessment Feedback**

At Toomer, we are committed to providing feedback to all stakeholders regarding assessment results. Formative and summative assessment results will be sent home in weekly communication folders as well as uploaded weekly to Infinite Campus. Via the parent portal, you can access these scores at any time. Communication regarding assessments and progress will also be relayed through parent teacher conferences. No matter the method of communication, we strive for all assessment reports to be:

- Clear and concise
- Timely
- Relevant
- Easy to access
- Related to both academic and non-academic areas
- Reported with clear rubrics and expectations

## 6. Policy Review

As assessment research and our practices change, we will continue to review our policies and practices each year. Toomer's Assessment policy will be reviewed annually. This review will include input from all stakeholders including parents, community members, and staff. Changes over time to this policy will be documented and stored.

## 7. District and State Mandated Testing Calendar

Fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GKIDS</li><li>• STAR Math</li><li>• STAR Reading</li><li>• Unit Assessments</li><li>• Running Records</li><li>• Benchmark Assessments</li><li>• Universal Screeners</li></ul>
Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GKIDS</li><li>• STAR Math</li><li>• STAR Reading</li><li>• Unit Assessments</li><li>• Running Records</li><li>• Benchmark Assessments</li><li>• Universal Screeners</li><li>• ACCESS</li></ul>
Spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GKIDS</li><li>• Georgia Milestones</li><li>• STAR Math</li><li>• STAR Reading</li><li>• Unit Assessments</li><li>• Running Records</li><li>• Universal Screeners</li></ul>