

Planning a Benchmark Assessment?



As schools across the country plan strategies for assessing students, there are many things to consider. Review these **four tips** as you and your colleagues plan and administer assessments.

Schools across the nation routinely plan for a range of instructional delivery models. These models will require teachers to alter many of their typical teaching strategies and routines. Students will learn new protocols and procedures (e.g., social distancing, virtual meetings, a hybrid of remote and in-person learning, and altered schedules or calendars).



Timing

Conducting a benchmark assessment as soon and as efficiently as possible is a high priority. We recommend initiating your assessment plan after students have been in school long enough to establish a rapport and comfort with their new tools or procedures. This must be balanced with determining current performance levels and quickly making instructional and resource-allocation decisions.



Practical Considerations

Assessment conditions will likely mirror the options your school is using for learning. As such, assessment may be in person, online, or may be a hybrid approach. We recommend educators prioritize assessment of critical skills (i.e., reading/language arts and math) and work toward completing assessment accurately, quickly, and efficiently. Adequate training and preplanning will maximize the likelihood of this.



Health and Safety

Assessments should be conducted in as safe a manner as possible. The best approach for in-person assessment is to follow school and/or district policy about social distancing and wearing masks. With social distancing and/or remote-assessment conditions, we recommend assessors monitor students and consider the impact of distance on performance.



Equity Considerations

We want to ensure equity and access for all students. We recommend schools provide maximum flexibility with assessment options. Considerations include what type of equipment, Internet service, adult supervision, and privacy are needed for the assessments that will be used. Some options may present concerns about access for many children who need additional school support and whose home situations cannot provide equipment required to conduct remote assessments. Schools/districts should consider alternative ways to accomplish the assessments or provide necessary equipment and materials to families so the assessments may be completed.

**For more guidance about assessing your students, please read our
Guidance for Assessment at voyagersopris.com/remote-learning.**



Learn more at voyagersopris.com/product/assessment