



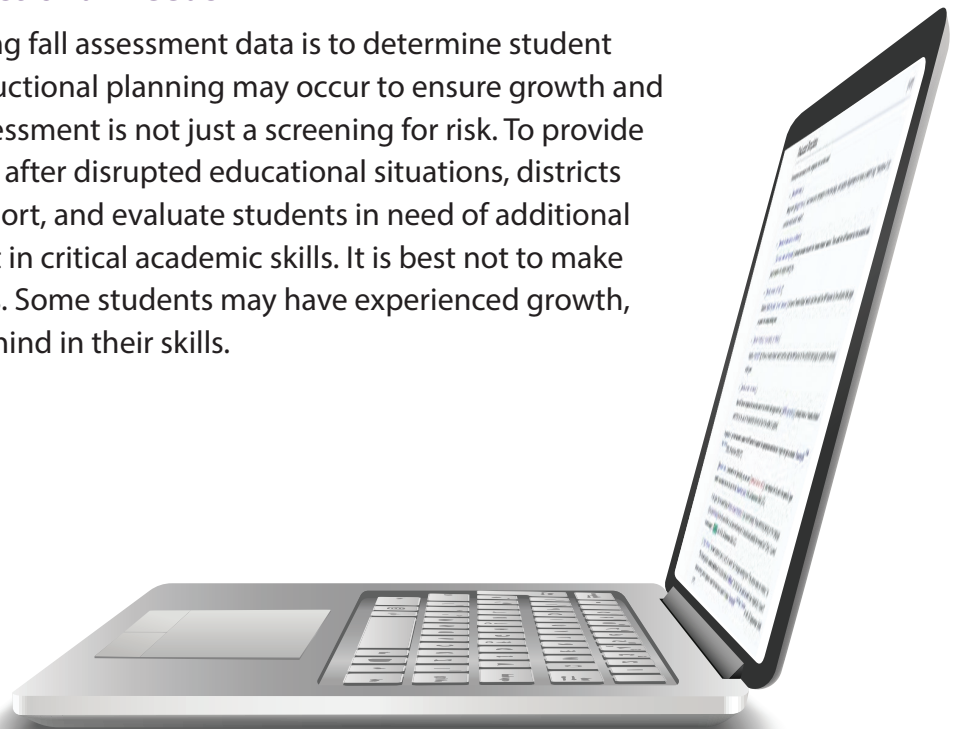
Why Give a Fall Assessment?



Assessing students is nothing new for educators, but with the uncertainty around the 2020–2021 school year, educators need to be especially clear about the purpose for conducting assessments. Learn more about what the primary purpose for assessment is for this unique year and what questions you should be asking.

Determine Student Instructional Needs

The primary purpose of collecting fall assessment data is to determine student instructional needs so that instructional planning may occur to ensure growth and development. As such, a fall assessment is not just a screening for risk. To provide the best instruction for students after disrupted educational situations, districts need to be able to identify, support, and evaluate students in need of additional instruction to become proficient in critical academic skills. It is best not to make assumptions about learning loss. Some students may have experienced growth, while others may have fallen behind in their skills.





Questions to Ask

1. What are the students' skills now, and are students on track to becoming successful in their academic skills (e.g., reading, mathematics)?

Determining students' present levels of performance relative to expectations as soon as practical will help educators make good decisions about which students need additional instructional support and in what skill areas. Corroborate findings with other available data sources.

2. Is the student making adequate progress toward important reading outcomes?

The focus should be on meeting the students where they are and supporting their growth toward important outcomes—where we want students to be at the end of the year. Progress monitoring can be used in a more targeted and strategic fashion. This may mean monitoring some students less frequently depending upon resources. Consider an interim check-in for students during the year. Out-of-level monitoring may be needed for some students. Consider how to best leverage the use of survey and diagnostic assessments to be very strategic.

Given these questions, conducting an assessment as soon as possible and as efficiently as possible may be a high priority. Follow-up diagnostic assessments should be used judiciously and only for those students with greatest need when/if educators are unclear about what to target for instruction.

For more guidance about assessing your students, please read our Fall 2020 Guidance for Assessment at voyagersopris.com/remote-learning.



Learn more about *Acadience* and *ClearSight Assessments* at voyagersopris.com/product/assessment.