




Spotlight: The Need for Instructionally Aligned Assessments

Stakeholders across the board are demanding greater utility from our systems of assessment. Unprecedented learning loss is emboldening states, educators and families to demand greater focus on learning acceleration with more relevant assessment and overall reduced testing time. While assessment remains critical in understanding how to best support students' learning acceleration, traditional assessment falls short in the following areas:

-  Low-quality assessments reinforce low-quality instruction.
-  Content tested doesn't align to content taught.
-  Summative assessments return data too late to provide instructional value.

These gaps pull assessment away from teaching and learning, undermining the power of high-quality curricula. Infrequent, but high-quality summative assessments with frequent, low-quality interim assessments have not produced a coherent, complementary system that supports high-quality instruction. And while many look to interims to address the need for timeliness and prediction of growth, they do so by ignoring the connection to curriculum and instruction, providing a false growth measure as shown in **Figure 1** below.

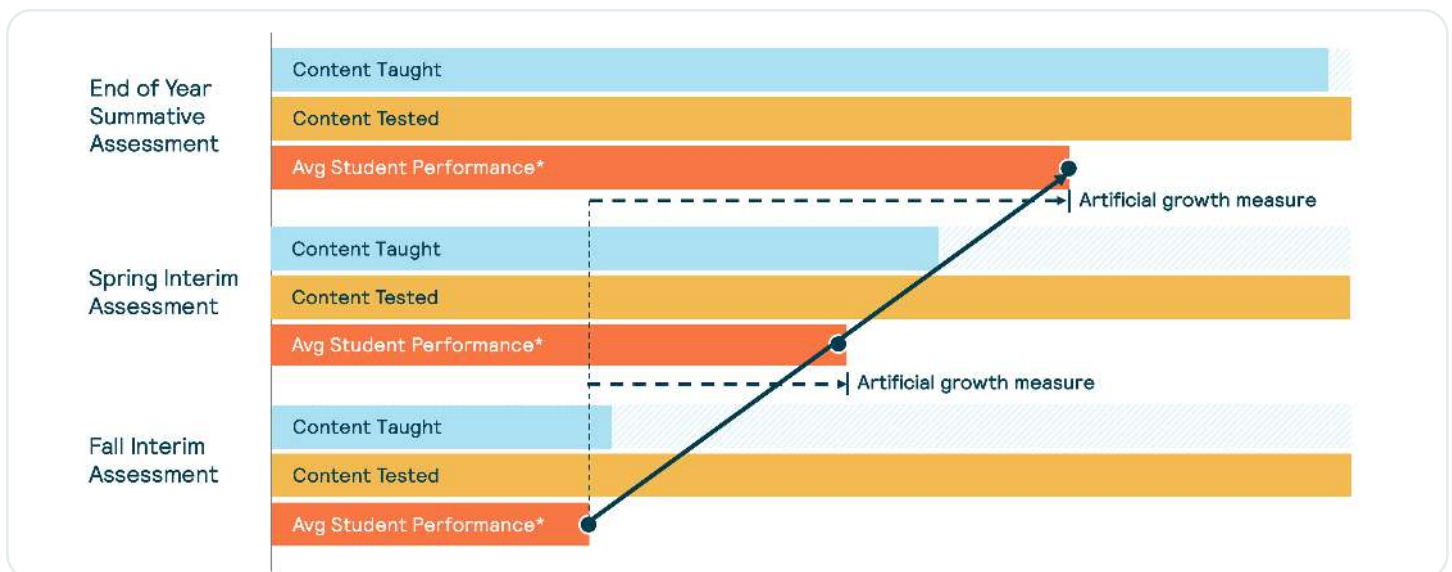


FIGURE 1

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As New Meridian gathers feedback from dozens of teachers, students, parents and administrators on current assessments, the most common critique is the lack alignment to taught curriculum. That is why we are developing the **New Meridian MasteryGuide™ Assessment**. Short, curriculum-aligned “testlets” will be administered, each taking only a single class period, to show student progress and inform instruction in real time throughout the year. Testlet results can then be aggregated to form a cumulative summative score that reflects skills demonstrated over the course of that year.

Figure 2 provides an example of how 5th Grade testlets could be aligned to the Eureka Mathematics curriculum. We also plan to incorporate short sets of “precursor” testlets (2-3 items each) into our math assessment which will assess the knowledge and skills from prior grades that are necessary for success in the on-grade testlet content. Teachers can deliver these precursor testlets prior to instruction to get a sense of whether students are ready to move forward.

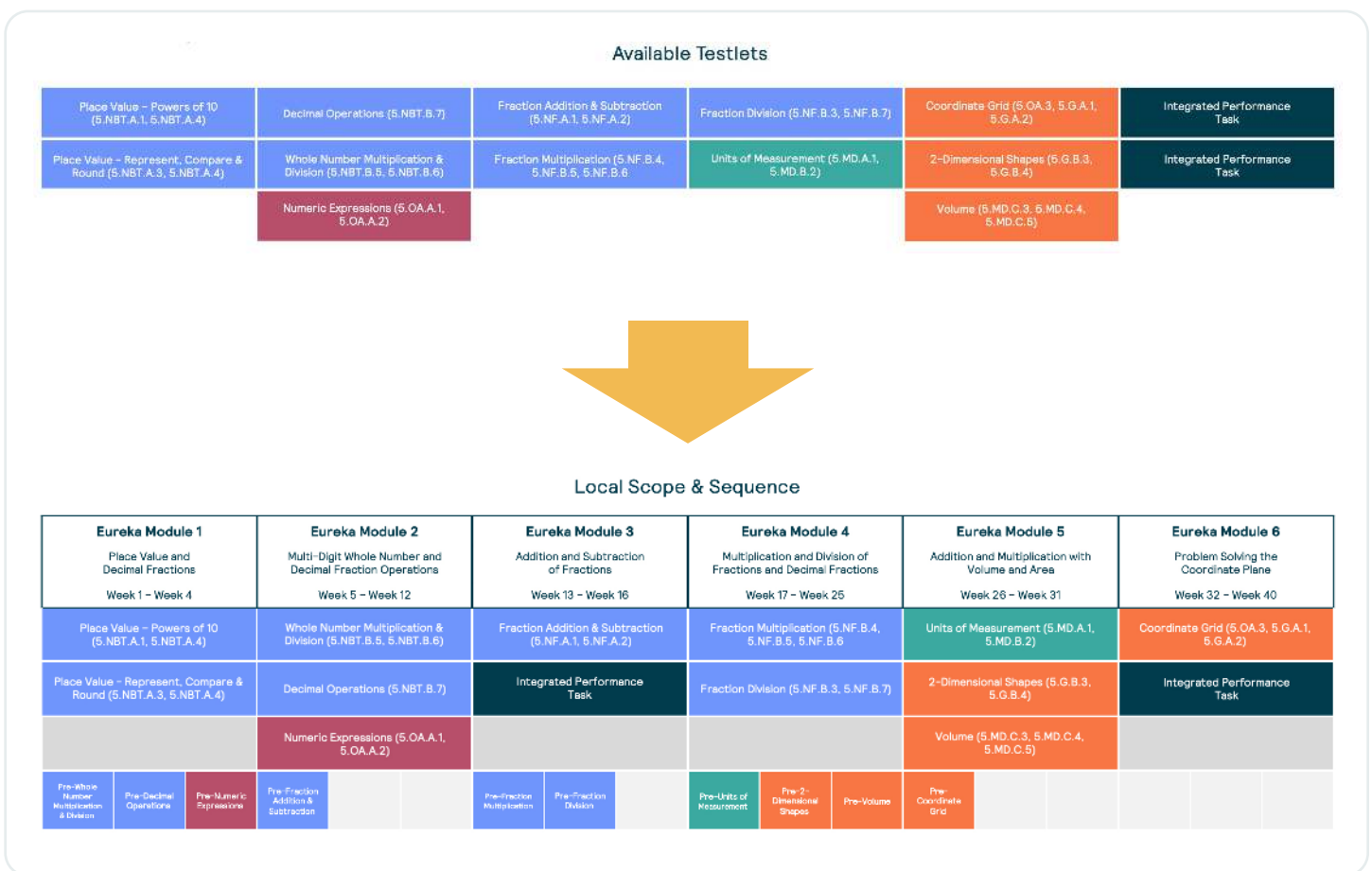


FIGURE 2



Interested in sharing your voice to help shape the next generation of assessment?

Scan the QR code to see how you can get involved!

The new assessment system will offer granular and actionable data to help teachers plan instruction throughout the year. With our classroom-level reporting shown in **Figure 3**, teachers will be able to see mastery of each standard at the student and the class level, allowing them to pinpoint where each student needs additional support. Teachers will then be able to drill down further with dynamic and interactive reporting.

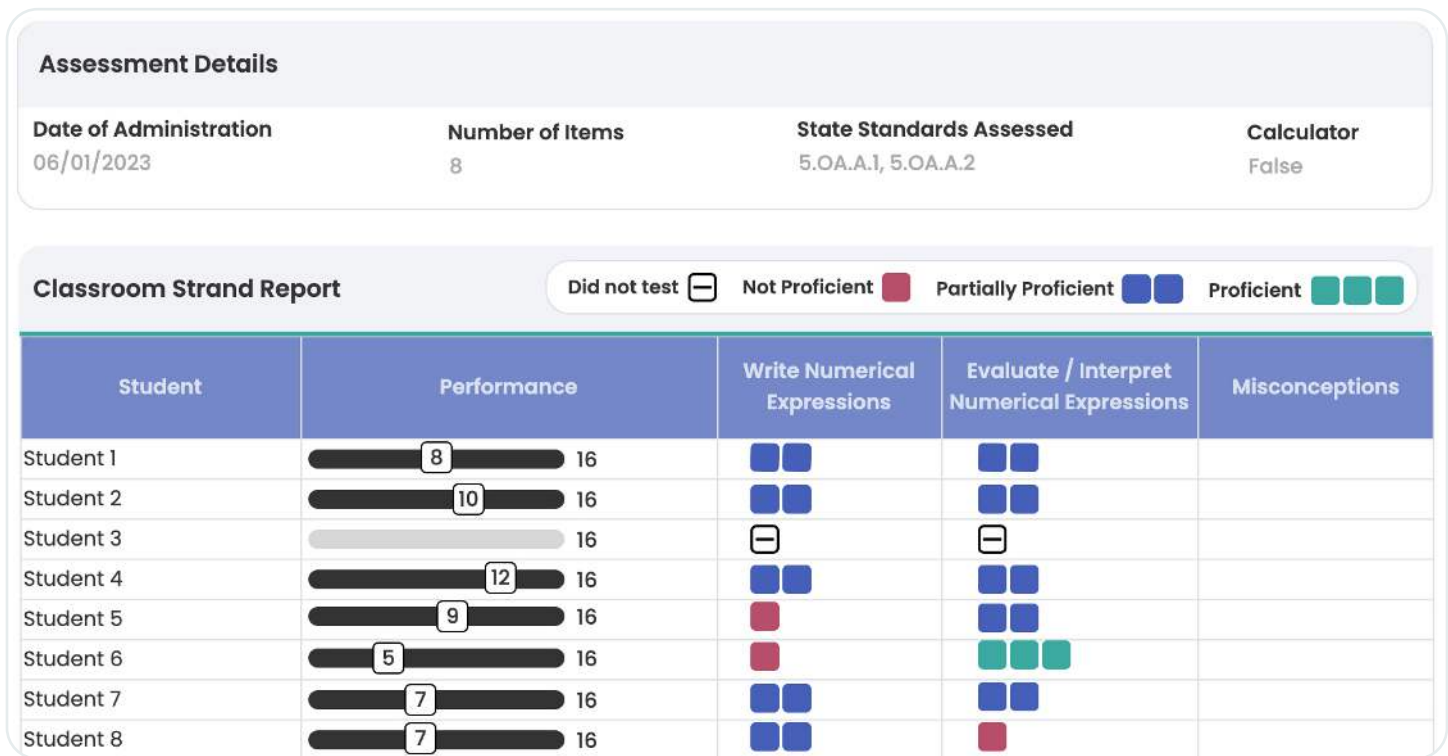


FIGURE 3

At the end of the year, we can aggregate multiple content areas, and view each individual student's probability of proficiency across all tested clusters of standards. The probability can be expressed graphically or can be displayed as a number as shown in **Figure 4**.

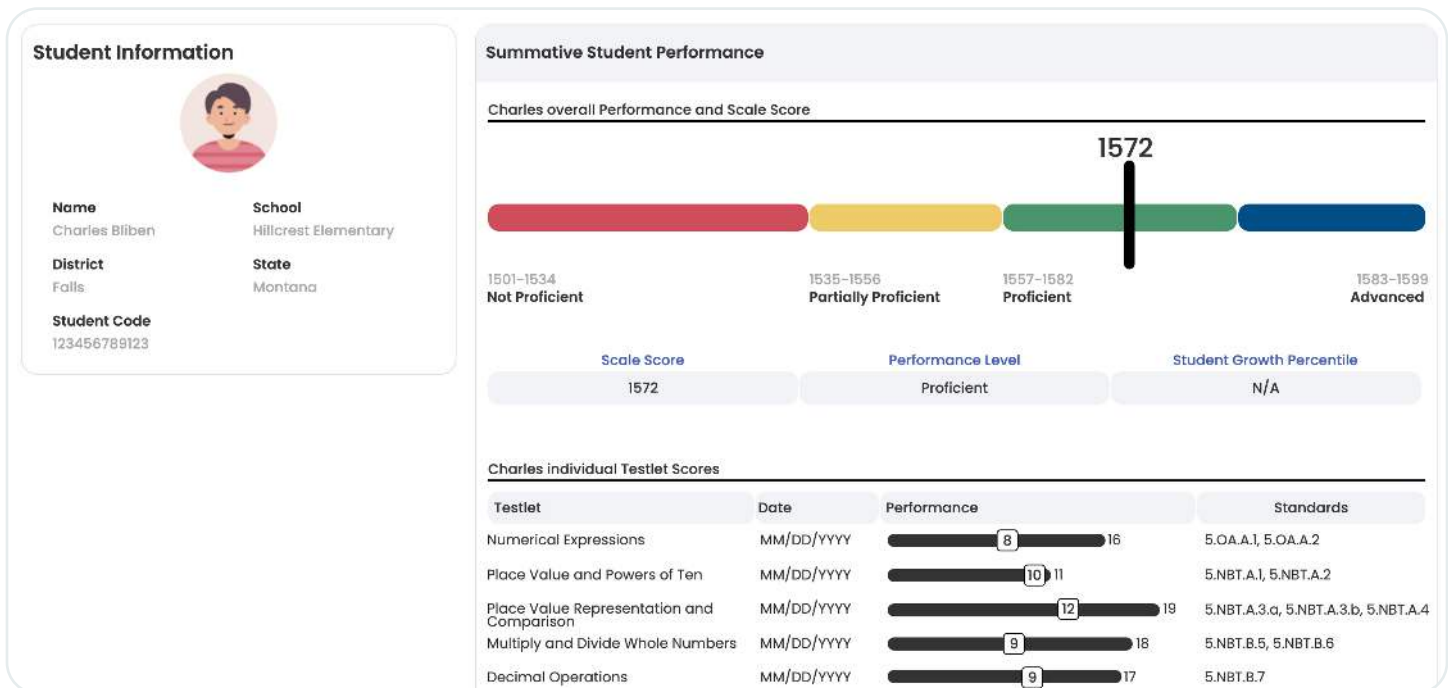


FIGURE 4

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As we continue building the next generation of assessment, it's vital that we prioritize instructional alignment and build from the classroom up. Testing students only on what they've had the opportunity to learn in the classroom is a more fair approach. The MasteryGuide Assessment will provide richer data and lead to actionable, real-time reporting, so that teachers and parents can better support student learning in and outside the classroom. It will also provide education leaders with the insight needed to advocate for the student populations who need it most.

The New Meridian MasteryGuide Assessment:



10-14 testlets throughout the year



Flexibly aligns to local instruction



Measures fine-grained, instructionally relevant standards to inform instruction



Administered in a single class period



Machine scored for real-time classroom feedback



Aggregates to a summative, year-end score

Want to drive real transformation in assessment? Let's get in touch.

New Meridian is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing the quality of public education for all students by designing assessments that focus on the skills that matter.

Contact us at sales@newmeridiancorp.org



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