

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 highquality 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.

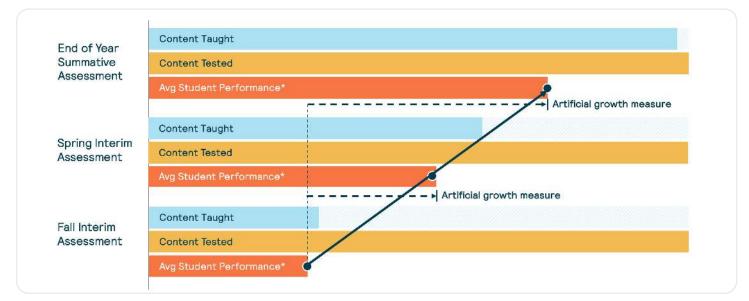


FIGURE 1

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 ProgressGuide™ 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.

Figure 2 provides an example of how 5th Grade testlets could be aligned to the Eureka Mathematics curriculum.

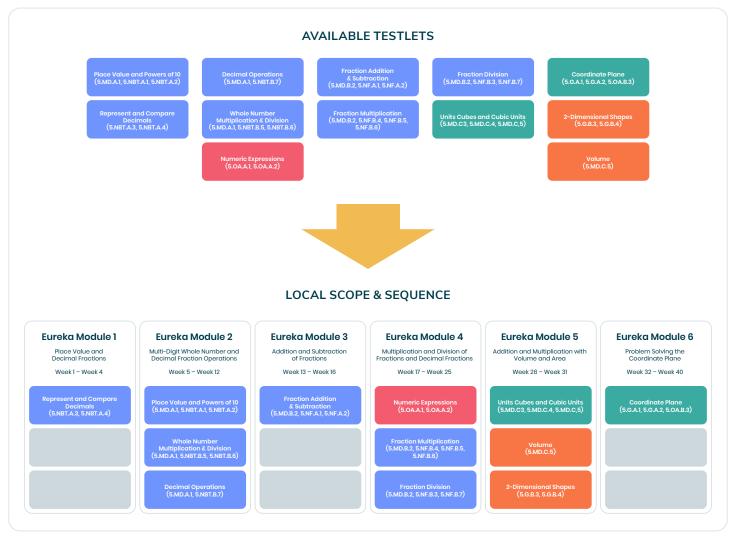


FIGURE 2



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 performance on each content strand at the student and the class level, allowing them to pinpoint where each student needs additional support.

Assessment Details					
Administraion Window Number of Items		State Standa	Calculator		
06/01/2023 - 7/1/2023	15	5.0A.A.1, 5.0A.A.2		False	
Classroom Strand Report		Did	I not test 🔵 Not Proficie	nt 🛞 Proficient 🧹	
Student	Performance	Write Numerical Expressions	Evaluate / Interpret Numerical Expressions	Misconceptions	
atima Ali	8 16	0	8	ME09	
Jackson Anderson	10 16	0	8	ME31	
Olivia Brown	16	0	0		
ila Chen 🛛 🗖	12 16	\bigcirc	8	ME09	
	9	8	0	ME31	
Noah Davis					
	14 16				
Noah Davis Cahul Desai Cahul Desai Cahul Aiden Garcia Cahul	14) 16 7	 ✓ (8) 	Š		

FIGURE 3

Teachers will then be able to drill down further with dynamic and interactive reporting as shown in Figure 4.

Student Information		Mini-Assessments Numerical Expressions · Student Reports Student Strand Report					
		Assessment Details					
		Test Date 6/15/2023	Subject / Grade Math Grade 5	Curriculum Eureka Math (Great	Minds)	Calculator Yes	
Name Fatima Ali	School Hillcrest Elementary						
District Falls	State Montana	Mini-Assessment Summary					
Student Code 123456789123		Fatima's Content & Skill Mastery					
		Numerical Expressions	6	nberical Expressions Eva Mastered	luate / Interpret Nun Not Maste		
		0					
		Fatima's Misconceptions					
		 Student added or subtracted r 					
		2 (1.1 (1.1 (1.1 (1.1 (1.1 (1.1 (1.1 (1.					
		 Student added or subtracted r 					
		Student added or subtracted r Error creating equivalent fraction		g. (MEO8)	ractions. (MEO6)		
		Student added or subtracted r Error creating equivalent fraction		g. (MEO8)	ractions. (MEO6)		
		 Student added or subtracted r Error creating equivalent fracti Fatima's Testlet Results 	ons when adding or subtractin	g. (MEO8)	ractions. (MEO6) edit Earned® Full	Credit Earned	
		Student added or subtracted r Error creating equivalent fracti Fatima's Testlet Results Question	ons when adding or subtractin	g. (MEO8) No Response O No Cro	ractions. (ME06) edit Earned® Full Credit Earned	Credit Earned Standards	

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 fairer approach. The ProgressGuide 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 ProgressGuide Assessment:



8-14 testlets throughout the year



Flexibly aligns to local instruction



Measures fine-grained, instructionally relevant standards to inform instruction



Administered in a single class period



Timely and actionable reporting data

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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