

Overview of Assessment – Social Studies

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Classroom Assessment : Assessment is a powerful tool LPS social studies teachers use to help students learn.

- Assessments can provide important formative and summative information about student learning.
- Assessments can also be an important part of the overall student motivation picture in your classroom.
- Research indicates that assessments teachers design (classroom assessments) are the assessments that most impact student learning.
- Formative uses of assessment data specifically seem to help students achieve (especially “at-risk” students). For example, teachers can use assessment data to formulate decisions about instruction.
- Please email or talk to Rob about opportunities to discuss uses of assessment in social studies classrooms. There are usually multiple staff development opportunities regarding classroom assessment.

District Assessment (CRTs): In LPS, grades 3-8 and graduation requirement high school courses administer a CRT (Criterion Referenced Test) written by LPS teachers designed to assess student proficiency on the standards. (NOTE: see chart on back of this sheet for information about which CRTs will be administered in 08-09)

- What the CRTs Do: CRTs assess student proficiency on social studies standards. Teachers determined what the “barely proficient” level is for each CRT. Note that CRT items are written at the Knowledge and Reasoning levels. Other kinds of learning goals (performance goals, skill goals, etc.) should be assessed with classroom assessment best matched to these learning goals (e.g. performance assessments).
- Which CRTs will be given in 08-09?: See the chart on the back of this sheet.
- How do I get CRTs?: Your building Test Coordinator will provide you with CRT test booklets, answer sheets, rosters, and administration guidelines. You should tell your test coordinator which day you plan on giving the CRT and she/he will give you the materials a couple days in advance (there is not a designated CRT administration day for social studies CRT). Please do NOT ask test coordinators to see the CRTs in order to plan your course (planning should be based on the standards/objectives, not specific CRT items).
- When do I see CRT results? Your building social studies liaison/chair receives CRT results in the summer, and principals get results in your building’s Instructional Conference Data Packet.
- How should I use CRT results? You can score CRTs before you give them back to your building Test Coordinator (Test Coordinators have answer keys) and use the results in ways that make sense in your classroom. CRTs should be part of your evaluation of student achievement, but should not be the only or major source of data for student evaluations (grades). Your liaison/chair will also help your department analyze the previous year’s CRT results.

Final Thoughts: Assessment should be a powerful tool we use to help figure out what you want students to learn, whether they’ve learned it, and what to do when they have or have not learned it. Assessment can help motivate students to achieve, but it also has the potential to discourage students. Please think about how to best use assessment to “turn on the light” for students, and use assessment data to figure out where students are and how to help them learn.

Which Social Studies CRTs will be given in 2008-09?

ELEMENTARY		HIGH SCHOOL	
Grades K-2	(no CRTs for these grades)	Civics	Yes (but department chairs will discuss how to start the revision process for Civics district level assessment)
Grade 3	No (teachers piloted new materials/standards in 07-08, liaisons will discuss future district level assessment development)	Geography	Yes (new items were tried out and field tested in 07-08. Standard setting will occur in 08-09.)
Grade 4	No (teachers piloted new materials/standards in 07-08, liaisons will discuss future district level assessment development)	World History I	Yes (new items were tried out in 07-08. Field test will occur in 08-09.)
Grade 5	No (teachers piloted new materials/standards in 07-08, liaisons will discuss future district level assessment development)	World History II	Yes (new items were tried out in 07-08. Field test will occur in 08-09.)
MIDDLE SCHOOL		US History I	Yes (but department chairs will discuss how to start the revision process for USI district level assessment, and standard setting will occur for standard 3)
Grade 6	No (teachers wrote new items on the new curriculum in 07-08. Item tryouts during 08-09)	US History II	Yes (but department chairs will discuss how to start the revision process for USII district level assessment, and standard setting will occur for standard 3)
Grade 7	No (teachers wrote new items on the new curriculum in 07-08. Item tryouts during 08-09)	Economics	Yes (but department chairs will discuss how to start the revision process for Economics district level assessment)
Grade 8	Yes (But middle school liaisons will discuss how to start the revision process for GR8 district level assessment)	Psychology	Yes (new items were tried out and field tested in 07-08. Standard setting will occur in 08-09.)
		Government and Politics	Yes (but department chairs will discuss how to start the revision process for GoPo district level assessment)