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Roadmap from Ohio's State Tests (OST) Assessment Development Resources to Classroom Assessment Practices

1 — OHIO'S LEARNING STANDARDS

Ohio's Learning Standards identify what students should know and be able to do.

Educators use learning standards as a basis for instruction and assessment.

Educators can review the learning standards that students are expected to master in the next unit. This helps create plans to ensure that instruction, class activities and classroom assessments are aligned to those learning standards.

2 — TEST BLUEPRINT

Each test has a test blueprint. The test blueprint identifies the content covered, the skills to be measured, and other content-relevant aspects of the test. Test blueprints contain information about individual tests, including the number of points on the test and how the learning standards are grouped in order to report the test results.

Educators can use test blueprints to help focus instruction and develop classroom assessments.

Test blueprints are used as a guide, or outline, for test construction. Each test is built to reflect the detailed test blueprint specific to that test. Ohio educators can use the test blueprints to assist with grouping standards into units, as well as determining instructional time needed for the units. The test blueprints can also assist with designing local assessments based on units of instruction as well as the range of levels of cognitive complexity.

3 — TEST SPECIFICATIONS

Each test has test specifications. The test specifications (test specs) provide an overview of the structure of the test. This overview includes a description of the test design, information on the types of items that will appear on the test, and statements that provide any limitations on the content based on grade-level learning expectations.

Educators can use test specs as a resource for instruction, activities and assessment development in the classroom.

Item writers and Ohio stakeholders use the test specs as a resource when they create or review test items to ensure alignment to learning standards, limitations on content, cognitive complexities, and eligible item types. Educators can use test specs in planning instructional activities at different content levels and levels of cognitive complexity. Test specs can also assist with construction of classroom tests and local assessments to provide insight into evidence of learning-standard mastery.

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4 PERFORMANCE LEVEL DESCRIPTORS

Performance level descriptors (PLDs) illustrate what students should know or be able to do at each of the five performance levels: Limited, Basic, Proficient, Accelerated and Advanced. During standard setting, every test has a committee of Ohio stakeholders that reviews the test, discusses what the different levels of performance mean in terms of the test and reviews impact data on student performance. Ultimately, these committees make a recommendation to the State Board of Education to set the performance standards (cut scores) that represent each of the five performance levels.

Educators can review the PLDs to guide planning for each student.

Educators can consider the PLDs for a specific grade level and content area, along with other data, when planning instruction and promoting student progress from one performance level to the next. Content and skills, as well as cognitive complexity, should be taken into consideration while planning. Educators can also review local curriculum materials to see if opportunities are being given to students to demonstrate deeper conceptual understanding of grade level/course content at the different performance levels.

6 STUDENT TUTORIALS AND TOOLS

The Student Testing Site Tutorials provide information about the online Student Testing Site. Part 1 walks through the student sign-in process and navigation. Part 2 covers the tools available to students. Other tutorials provided on this site demonstrate how to respond to a variety of item types that students will encounter on Ohio's State Tests. There are also tutorials that demonstrate the various tools available for students to use on the tests.

Educators can use the tutorials and tools available on the Student Testing Site.

Once students understand how to respond to the various types of test questions and how to use the test tools, encourage students to try them out on the Practice Test Site.

5 PRACTICE TESTS, RELEASED ITEMS AND SCORING GUIDES

Practice tests are available on the Ohio's State Tests portal Student Practice Site. Practice tests allow students to view and answer test questions online that are like those that could appear on state tests. This helps students understand what kinds of test questions to expect and to experience the online testing environment. Items released from the spring tests give educators insight into the kinds of questions students experienced on the tests.

Practice site guidance and other content-specific tools and resources can be found on the test portal Student Practice Resources page.

Educators may find Scoring Guides a useful tool to inform classroom instruction and assessment.

The Practice Test Scoring Guide for each content/grade level test is a document that provides the answer key, item type, learning standard being assessed, and annotated sample student responses for each question on that specific practice test.

For each spring test there is an Item Release Scoring Guide available on the Ohio's State Tests portal. In the scoring guide examples of student responses illustrate actual work and the corresponding points earned for the work provided. There are also notes on scoring and rationales that describe why response options are correct or incorrect.

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