



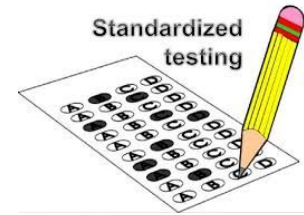
FAST GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING STANDARDIZED TESTING

What are Standardized Tests?

A standardized test is an objective test that is given and scored in a uniform manner.

- Standardized tests are developed by educational testing experts. They are carefully constructed and items are selected after trials for appropriateness and difficulty, to make sure the results are accurate and meaningful.
- All students who take the same version of a standardized test will have the same conditions and the same amount of time to complete the test.
- Standardized tests usually assess student skills and knowledge on a broad level and may test all academic areas at the same time (math, reading, science, etc.)

Why Have Standardized Tests?



Standardized tests provide an indication of how much knowledge a student has accumulated at a given point in his or her schooling in relation to other children of the same age in schools across the state and nation.

Standardized achievement test results can affirm your child's learning progress.

If testing indicates that a child is struggling in certain areas, you will be able to provide additional support and use different methods of instruction to help the child gain necessary skills.

To be able to assess our own grade level curriculum in comparison to national norms.

Questions which are asked when analyzing data...

- What are his/her strengths and weaknesses?
- Does the child need support or enrichment?
- Which questions were a challenge?
- How did the grade do in terms of performance growth?
- Strengths and Weaknesses.
- Was there a specific area that should be a source of concern?
- Was this area of concern consistent with last year's results?



Assessments at FAST

- Georgia Milestones
- Fastbridge
- NWEA MAP
- Edgenuity



FastBridge
Learning



Georgia MILESTONES

The Georgia Milestones Assessment System is a comprehensive assessment system spanning grades 3 through high school. Georgia Milestones measures how well students have learned the knowledge and skills outlined in the state content standards in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Students in grades 3 through 8 will take the End of Grade (EOG) measures in each content area, while high school students will take End of Course (EOC) measures for each of the ten courses associated with the EOC measures.



Fastbridge Assessment

Fastbridge Test- Given three times a year and mandated by Fulton County Schools.

FAST™ offers brief, evidence-based Curriculum Based Measures (CBM) and Computer Adaptive Tests (CAT) for reading, math and behavioral screening to help pinpoint those shifts and react with the right support the moment it's needed. Schools receive valid, reliable data at the end of each screening period (fall, winter and spring) to identify students who are on track and those who require supplemental or intensive instruction. Plus, receive support to implement appropriate, research-based interventions for at-risk students.





MAP, or the Measure of Academic Progress, is a computerized adaptive test which helps teachers, parents, and administrators improve learning for all students and make informed decisions to promote a child's academic growth. During the first weeks of school, students will participate in MAP testing sessions to assess Reading, Language Usage, and Mathematics. When taking the MAP test, the difficulty of each question is based on how well a student answers all the previous questions. As the student answers correctly, questions become more difficult. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier. Students will repeat the tests two more times during the year to continually assess student progress and adapt learning as needed.

MAP TESTING

MAP is used to measure a student's progress or growth in school. The testing information is important to teachers because it indicates a student's strengths and help that is needed in any specific areas. Teachers can use this information to help them guide instruction in the classroom.



Standardized Testing-Only Part of the Story

Formative assessment examples:

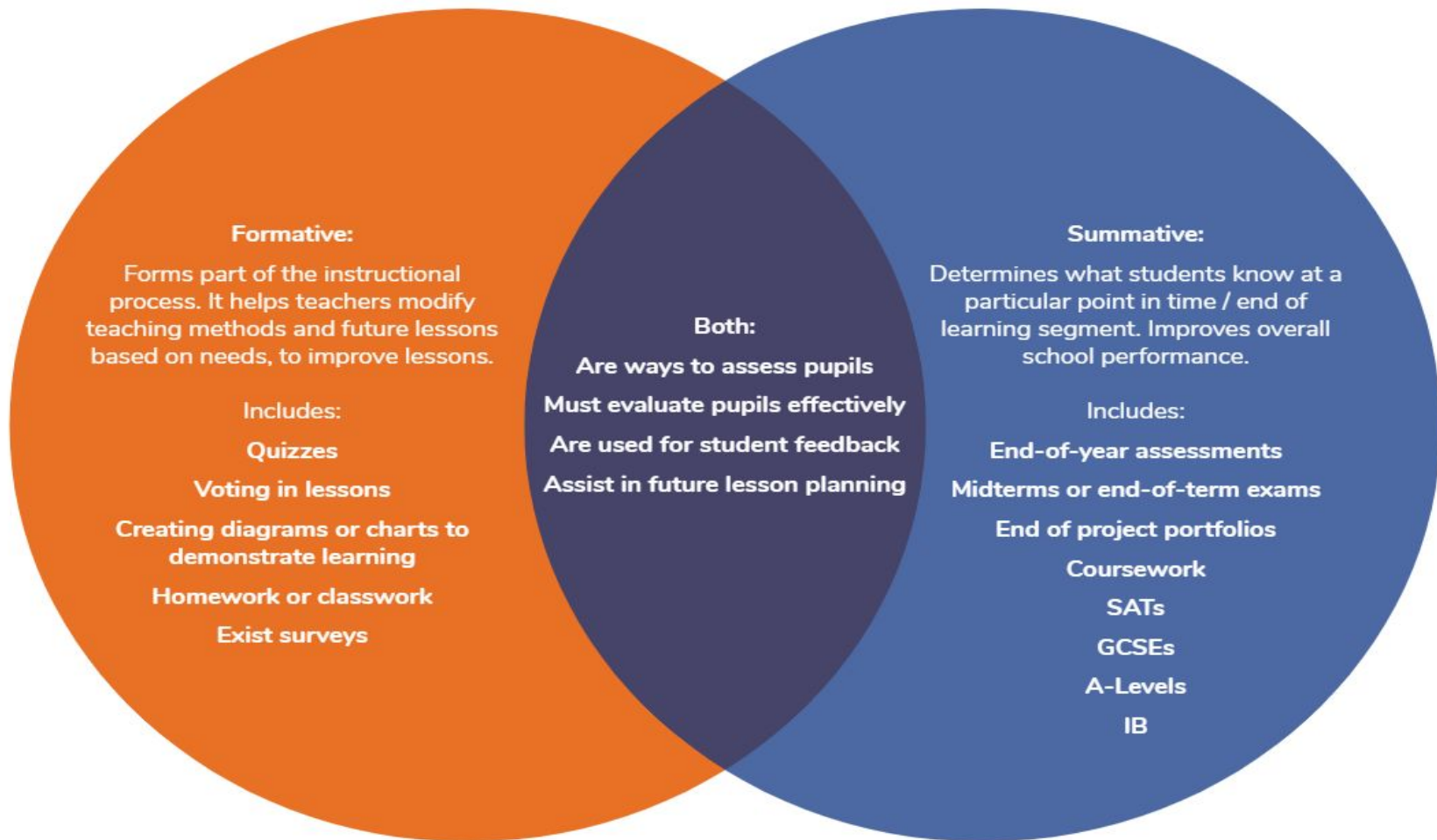
- Impromptu quizzes or anonymous voting
- Short comparative assessments to see how pupils are performing against their peers
- One-minute papers on a specific subject matter
- Lesson exit tickets to summarize what pupils have learnt
- Silent classroom polls
- Ask students to create a visualisation or doodle map of what they learnt



Summative Assessment Examples:



- End-of-term or midterm exams
- Cumulative work over an extended period such as a final project or creative portfolio
- End-of-unit or chapter tests
- Standardised tests that demonstrate school accountability are used for pupil admissions



Source: Rick Wormell, Fair Isn't Always Equal

Questions & Answers

