

# United Independent School District

## Curriculum Based Assessments

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **General:**

#### 1. What are Curriculum Based Assessments (CBAs)?

Curriculum Based Assessments (CBAs) are assessments used at the elementary and secondary grade levels that are tied to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). CBAs take the place of a weekly assessment for every content area assessed with CBAs. No additional testing is completed when CBAs are scheduled.

#### 2. What is the purpose of CBAs?

The purpose of the CBAs are to monitor the student's progress and help prepare them to be successful in their classes as well as on the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR). The results of the CBAs are evaluated by teachers and they are able to make adjustments to their instruction to meet their students' needs.

#### 3. When are CBAs administered?

Elementary schools will administer the CBAs the last week of a designated six week period; 1<sup>st</sup> six weeks and 3<sup>rd</sup> six weeks only. Middle schools will administer the CBAs in September, October, and December. At the high schools, CBAs are administered intermittently, during each nine week period.

#### 4. Who will test the CBAs?

All students will be tested with the CBAs except for students that will be assessed with the STAAR-Alt 2 during the spring semester.

#### 5. What grades and subjects will test with a CBA?

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – Reading and Math

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Math, Reading and Writing

4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Math, Reading, Writing and Science

5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Math, Reading, Science and Social Studies

6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grades – Math, Reading, Writing, Science and Social Studies

9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grades – CBA's are available for the following courses:

English I, II, & III

Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2

Biology, Chemistry, Physics

World Geography, World History and U.S. History

6. How many questions are on the CBA?

1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade:	12 questions per subject
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	15 questions per subject
6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	12 questions per subject
9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	10 – 15 questions per subject

7. How much time will be given to complete the CBAs?

The CBAs were created to be completed within a class period. Suggested time limits are as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade:	60 minutes
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	90 minutes
6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	55 minutes
9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	60 minutes

8. Will students be allowed to use accommodations?

Students who routinely and effectively use allowable testing accommodations during classroom instruction will be allowed to use them during CBA.

9. What is the CBA Committee?

The CBA Committee consists of teachers and campus administrators that represent each campus. This committee of over 60 campus representatives was divided into three subcommittees which were the Local Assessments/Common Assessments Guide Committee, the Grading Guidelines and Communications Plan for Local Assessment Committee and the Committee overseeing the Process to Review and/or Develop Local Assessments/Interim Formative Assessments.

10. How were the outcomes of the committee meetings communicated to all the teachers and administrators at the district?

During the spring semester in 2014, each subcommittee/committee member presented the committee findings/decisions to the Site Based Decision Making (SBDM) committee of each district. The CBA committee members then brought back campus feedback and the all CBA committee decisions were finalized after the campus meetings took place.

11. Where can I find the schedule of assessments that will take place this year?

The schedule for CBAs can be found in the U.I.S.D. website under the Curriculum Based Assessment – An Explanation for Parents. In addition, the schedule is included in the **Parent Connection Back to School Edition 2014-2015**, which is the newsletter for parents of U.I.S.D. Copies of the newsletter can be found in the U.I.S.D. website within the **For Parents** tab under Parent Resources.

### **Grading Guidelines:**

12. Does the CBA count for a grade?

CBAs will count as a test grade in accordance to the district's grading guidelines [EIA Local], just as a regular classroom test grade counts for students. Weekly tests, unit tests, pop quizzes, chapter tests, CBAs, research papers, or projects will make up 50 % of the student's grade for the reporting period.

13. Can a CBA grade be dropped?

As designated by district grading guidelines, as long as the teacher maintains the minimum number of required assessment grades during a reporting period, the teacher has the discretion to drop grades and to determine which grades to drop.

14. Will a student be allowed to re-test a CBA?

Although according to district grading guidelines [EIA Local], a student enrolled in United I.S.D. schools should be afforded the opportunity to retest on a weekly test or chapter test in any course he/she is taking, students may NOT retest on a CBA.

15. If my child is absent, can they make-up a CBA?

According to district grading guidelines [EIA Local], a student will be permitted to make up tests and to turn in projects due in any class missed because of an absence.

For an **excused absence**, the time allotted will be equal to a day for a day of absence. For example, a student absent for five (5) days will be allotted 5 days to complete the missed assignment.

For an **unexcused absence**, make-up work/test after an unexcused absence shall receive a maximum grade of 70. The time allotted will be equal to a day for a day of absence.

16. Can my child “opt-out” of taking a CBA?

According to Texas Education Code Chapter 26, Sec. 26.010, (a) a parent is entitled to remove the parent’s child temporarily from a class or other school activity that conflicts with the parent’s religious or moral beliefs if the parent presents or delivers to the teacher of the parent’s child a written statement authorizing the removal of the child from the class or other school activity. **A parent is not entitled to remove the parent’s child from a class or other school activity to avoid a test or to prevent the child from taking a subject for an entire semester.**

(b) This section does not exempt a child from satisfying grade level or graduation requirements in a manner acceptable to the school districts and the agency.

It is important to note that both excused or unexcused absences affect the 90 percent attendance rule according to Texas Education Code § 28.023. If the student is not in attendance for at least 90 percent of the days a class is offered, he/she may not receive credit or a final grade unless the attendance committee finds that extenuating circumstances justify awarding credit.

17. Do CBAs and Benchmarks administered in UISD exceed the number of assessments approved through the state legislature?

No, CBAs take the place of a weekly assessment so they are not an addition to the teachers’ assessment schedule. UISD and its campuses all adhere to the House Bill 5 Legislative regulation that only permits two (2) benchmarks per year.