Goals & Guardrails

Guardrail 5

Protect Appropriate Testing

JCPS shall not utilize more than the minimum number of district-mandated assessments to monitor student outcomes.

Theory of Action

If JCPS implements a high-quality, balanced assessment system that integrates both standardized and performance-based assessments, then it will foster a learning environment where student growth is accurately measured, with assessments that are purposeful, diverse, and aligned with learning goals.

Key Actions:

- Integrate Multiple Assessment Types
- Focus on Meaningful Assessments
- Ensure Fidelity
- Optimize Participation
- Support Instructional Growth

This approach balances accurate measurement with meaningful learning experiences, driving continuous improvement.

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Research Indicates

- Use of high-quality formative assessment is associated with improvements in students' math, reading, and science achievement

- Excessive testing reduces instructional time

- Over-reliance on traditional standardized tests may hinder the development of 21st-century competencies

- Authentic assessment builds relevance and equity

- Performance assessments strengthen instruction and support student learning

- Without proper support, an excess of assessment data can overwhelm educators

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Assessment Landscape Summary

Federal or State Required

- ACT *(Grade 11)*
- ACCESS for ELLs *(Grades K-12)*
- BRIGANCE Kindergarten Readiness Screener *(Grade K)*
- Civics Test *(once in HS)*
- Early Literacy and Math Screener: MAP *(Grades K-3)*
- Early Literacy Diagnostic: MAP Fluency *(Grades K-3)*
- Kentucky Summative Assessments (KSA) *(Grades 3-11)*
- National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) *(Grades 4, 8)*
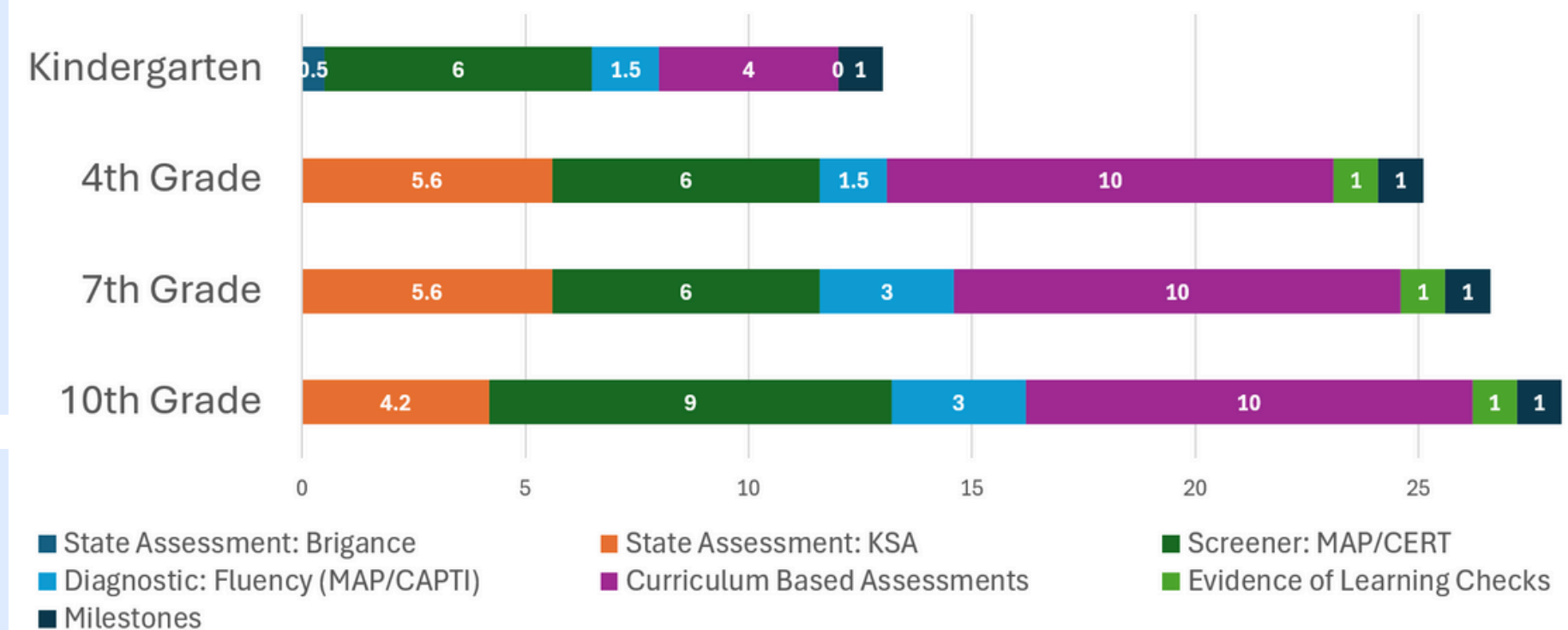- NNAT (gifted and talented assessment) *(Grade 3)*

District Required

- Screener: MAP *(Grades 4-8)* and CERT *(Grades 9-10)*
- Diagnostic: MAP Fluency *(Grades 4-5)* and CAPTI *(Grades 6-9)*
- Defenses of Learning *(Grades 5, 8, 12)*
- Curriculum Assessments & Evidence of Learning Checks: Pilot SY24-25 *(Grades 3-8)*
- Journey to Success Milestones *(Grades K-4, 6-7, 9-11)*

Not District Required (Optional)

- Postsecondary Readiness Assessments: (ASVAB, Advanced Placement, KYOTE) *(Grades 9-12)*
- Teacher Created Assessments *(Grades K-12)*

Student Experience

Bar chart legend:
- State Assessment: Brigance
- State Assessment: KSA
- Screener: MAP/CERT
- Diagnostic: Fluency (MAP/CAPTI)
- Curriculum Based Assessments
- Evidence of Learning Checks
- Milestones

Data by grade:
- Kindergarten: 0.5, 6, 1.5, 4, 0, 1
- 4th Grade: 5.6, 6, 1.5, 10, 1, 1
- 7th Grade: 5.6, 6, 3, 10, 1, 1
- 10th Grade: 4.2, 9, 3, 10, 1, 1

Total time tested represents about **2%** of all instructional time

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Evaluation: *New Metric*

- **Interim Guardrail 5.1** Journey to Success Milestones: The percentage of students who successfully complete a backpack milestone will increase from x% in June 2025 to x% by June 2027.

- **Interim Guardrail 5.2** Defense of Learning: The percentage of 5, 8, 12th students who participate in a Defense of Learning will increase from x% in June 2025 to 90% or higher by June 2027.

- **Interim Guardrail 5.3** Assessment Integrity: Participation rates in district-required assessments will increase from x% in June 2025 to 90% or higher by June 2027.

Points of Celebration

- Spring MAP/CERT Testing: Collectively, 95% of students (K-10) who were eligible, participated in the Spring MAP/CERT assessments.
- Defense of Learning: Collectively, 90% of students in 5th grade, 8th grade, and 12th grade participated in their Defense of Learning.

	Milestones** (K-4, 6-7, 9-11)	Defenses of Learning** (5, 8, 12)	MAP/CERT*** *(Avg Reading & Math)* (K-5, 6-8 / 9-10)****
Elementary School	74.2%	92.2%	97.5%
Middle School	67.5%	86.3%	96.5%
High School	69.2%	92.9%	83.5%
Total K-12	71.4%	90.4%	95.0%

Data Current as of 5.27.25
**Participation compared to the students enrolled in the respective grades at the end of the 2024-25 school year.
***Spring 2025 MAP/CERT Testing Only
****Participation compared to students enrolled during 2024-25 Spring Assessment Window

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Effective Strategies

Data Literacy: Professional learning helps school leaders use assessment data to drive instruction and improve student outcomes.

Vital Signs Reviews: Student participation and achievement are reviewed and analyzed.

Academic Communications: Weekly newsletter shares resources, training, and instructional best practices with school leaders.

Participation is Monitored: Reports sent directly to school/district leaders to communicate participation progress.

Opportunities for Growth

Increase Milestone Participation: Journey to Success Milestone participation remains a key growth area, especially when compared to higher engagement levels in Defenses of Learning and MAP/CERT assessments.

Strengthen High School Engagement: Spring CERT assessments present an opportunity to increase engagement among high school students.

Enhance Middle School DoL Participation: Applying best practices from elementary and high schools offers an opportunity to boost middle school student involvement in Defenses of Learning.

Next Steps

Ensure Academies of Louisville and Explore Enhance Journey to Success: Explore and A of L should be mediums by which vibrant learning and authentic assessment happen. These natural connections will continue to increase student access to real-world learning.

Study & Share Best Practices: Provide opportunities for school leaders and Journey to Success Leads to calibrate with other schools in order to see exemplars and share in the success, and improve participation rates.

Evidence of Learning Checks: The Increased pilot for the ELCs will ensure that 3rd-8th grade students are given thematically and standards-aligned assessments so that teachers can better progress monitor.