



Implementing Testing Contract Language

Our contract contains language to limit over-testing (Article 44-32, pp. 184-5). Many CTU members want to recover instructional time by eliminating excessive tests, and have been able to use this contract language to do so. Others have faced push back from their principals and/or networks and have not prevailed.

Our Testing demand for the coming contract strengthens the language considerably, so that CPS has no right to mandate any test not required by state or federal law, by REACH, or required for particular programs.

The following FAQ is intended to help members implement the current contract for school year 2019-2020.

What tests do I have to give?

Under contract article 44-32, CPS can only require tests that are mandated by state or federal law, REACH tests, and tests required for particular programs (e.g., IB). Mandated tests include IAR, NWEA Spring, REACH Performance Tasks, KIDS, PSAT 8/9 (grade 9), PSAT 10, SAT (grade 11), NAEP, Illinois Science Assessment, ACCESS for English Language Learners, Dynamic Learning Maps Alternative Assessment, and IB Assessments.

Which tests are NOT required?

TRC/DIBELS, mCLASS Math, NWEA MAP for Primary Grades (MPG), Progress Monitoring, 5-week assessments, Measuring Up Live, Fountas & Pinnell, Compass, ANet, Fall & Winter NWEA do not fit into any of those mandated categories.

How can we enforce this contract article?

Between April 10 and May 10, 2019, the principal must consult with the PPC and faculty to prepare an assessment plan for next school year. The Delegate and PPC should call a union meeting during the week of May 13- May 17, 2019, and make sure that the plan is discussed by the faculty, including in grade levels/bands, subject areas, and special education.

No later than May 20-24, 2019, teachers and the principal must vote, using fair voting procedures, agreed upon by the PPC and the principal. Adoption of the plan shall be by majority vote.

If the PPC is unanimous, they can authorize a particular grade/subject area or sub-group to conduct a simultaneous supplemental vote on assessments applicable only to that group.

If the recommended plan fails to win a majority, the principal and network may offer an alternative assessment plan. We strongly recommend that your PPC and faculty firmly represent the staff's preference at this stage.

If no plan is approved, the plan can be submitted to strategic bargaining, the monthly meetings held between CTU and the CPS Labor Relations Department.

If you need assistance, please contact your field representative.

Article 44-32. Assessments [see pages 184-185 in the Contract]

- 43-32.1 **Required Assessments.** No later than June 30th of each year (or as soon as practicable after ISBE has published the state assessment calendar), the Board shall publish an assessment calendar for the subsequent school year, which shall consist of assessments mandated by the district for REACH, required to meet the mandates of state or federal laws and regulations, and mandated by a program (i.e., IB or any program that requires a test for student credit or program accreditation).
- 43-32.2 **Additional Assessments.** Schools shall determine assessments to be administered in conjunction with the development of the School Improvement Plan for Advancing Academic Achievement (SIPAA) which is currently known as the Continuous Improvement Work Plan (CIWP). Each year in the spring, Teachers and the Principal will collaborate to develop a recommended plan for additional assessments, if any, per grade band or content area/department. Prior to voting, the CEO or designee, may review and revise the proposed assessment plan, which shall be presented to and discussed with the school faculty. Teachers and the principal will then vote on the adoption of the plan, which shall be adopted by majority vote. If the plan is not adopted, and the faculty and/or the CEO or designee cannot agree on an alternative plan, the Union or the CEO or designee may submit the matter for resolution at strategic bargaining. The assessment decision will be included in the school's PD plan and reviewed by the district.
- 43-32.3 **Submission of concerns.** The District shall provide a way that staff can submit any issues and/or concerns (e.g. dedicated assessment email box) to Central Office in a confidential manner. CPS and CTU will meet quarterly to review their concerns and/or issues that are submitted.