



**CHICAGO
TEACHERS
UNION**

Assessment Votes

April 2023

USE YOUR PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT!

As professionals, you know your students and their academic needs. More than ever, students need time to learn. We have the ability to recover instructional time by eliminating excessive tests. There are certain required assessments. However, teachers have a right to vote on **any** optional assessments their school will administer. Decide as a **group** what, if **any**, of the non-required tests you want to give. **Do not let pressure from the principal or network to add unnecessary non-mandated assessments take away from the teaching time you know your students need.**

STEP-BY-STEP CALENDAR FOR ASSESSMENT VOTING

As Soon as Possible

1. Hold a Union Meeting as soon as possible with your staff. Discuss which assessments are required and get their input on **which, if any additional assessments they want to consider. Please keep in mind what our students (and teachers) have been through and think carefully before recommending any added testing, especially at this time.**
2. Principal must meet and collaborate with faculty to develop the Plan. **This includes meeting with the PPC to discuss and get input on a draft plan for assessment.**

No later than April 14, 2023

3. Principal presents proposed assessment plan to school staff as a whole for their consideration. Discussions may also take place in grade bands, with diverse learner teachers and among subject area teachers. **The Plan must be presented a minimum of one week prior to the vote.**

No later than May 5, 2023 and at least one week after presentation to staff

4. The school will conduct a secret ballot vote on the assessment plan using fair voting procedures. With a unanimous vote the PPC may authorize a particular subject area or grade level/band to conduct a yes-no vote for or against using a particular non-required assessment that is not being proposed for school-wide use. The Plan is approved if a majority of those who vote support it. Only teachers and the principal are allowed to vote. ***If you do not agree with the Plan being proposed, organize the teaching staff to vote NO.***

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS



Assessment

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Following the vote

5. Schools whose plans pass notify the Department of Student Assessment using the SY24 Assessment Plan Submission Form by 5/5/2023. Delegates should report their results and a copy of the proposed plan to the CTU at AssessmentVote@ctulocal1.org.

If the assessment vote does not pass, the Network Chief and or Assessment team will meet with teachers to devise an alternative plan. It is imperative that you mobilize your staff to participate in the development of an alternative plan and prepare them for possible pressure from network officials to administer optional assessments.

No later than May 19, 2023

6. If an alternative Plan cannot be reached, and no Plan has been agreed upon, either side may submit the issue to Strategic Bargaining for resolution.

WHAT ASSESSMENTS ARE REQUIRED?

Article 44-32.1 states that the Board shall publish an assessment calendar which shall consist of assessments mandated by the district. The district has failed to provide the assessment calendar which is required before the vote can take place.

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, REACH Performance Tasks, KIDS, PSAT (grades 9 and 10), SAT (grade 11), NAEP, Illinois Science Assessment, ACCESS for English Language Learners, Dynamic Learning Maps Alternative Assessment, and IB Assessments.

WHAT ASSESSMENTS ARE OPTIONAL?

Dibels, mCLASS Math, Skyline, Star 360, 5-week assessments, Compass, Aimsweb, Fountas and Pinnell, ANET, and progress monitoring are among the assessments that are not mandated.

If you have questions, or need assistance, please contact your field representative.

Questions to consider:

- How much instructional time will be lost from administering the test?
- How much money does the test cost the school budget?
- Is the test meaningful to students?
- Can the test data be found somewhere else?

Remember: You are the professionals! You know your students and their needs better than anyone downtown does. Have confidence in what you know will be best for them. Don't let admins pressure you to add assessments you know will take away valuable teaching time and won't benefit your students.