

FAQ on Assessment

What are Educational Goals?

Educational goals outline the academic expectations for students and fall under section 7b of the contract between each Public School Academy Board and the LSSU Board of Trustees. These goals include both yearly growth and proficiency targets for multiple assessments as well as academy specific goals. Note that these goals may differ from expectations outlined by an Educational Service Provider.

Can Academies change their Educational Goals?

Educational Goals consist of up to four measures. Measures one through three are authorizer determined and are unable to be modified (Measure 1: Student Growth on NWEA's Measure of Academic Progress, Measure 2: Student Achievement on NWEA's Measure of Academic Progress, and Measure 3: State/Federal Accountability) while academies have the option of adopting their own measures under Measure 4: Academy Specific Goals. There are a number of possibilities under Measure 4 goals, however, these goals must not conflict with the authorizer determined Measures one through three. Some academies, under Measure 4, choose to measure whether or not they have met their mission, participated in service learning, or set a certain percentage for stakeholder satisfaction but the sky is really the limit under this measure. Please consult the Academic Assessment Specialist prior to adopting any goals under Measure 4. Note: Changes to Educational Goals require a contract amendment to be passed by the Academy Board.

What assessments are required each year?

There are both state and authorizer mandated testing requirements. The table below outlines these requirements by assessment, subject, grade required, timeline of administration, as well as which entity oversees the requirement.

Assessment	Subject	Grade	Timeline	Entity
Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP)	ELA Math	3 rd -7 th	Spring	State
	Social Studies	5 th , 8 th , 11 th		
	Science	5 th , 8 th , 11 th		
Northwest Evaluation Association's Measure of Academic Progress (NWEA MAP)	Reading, Math	2 nd -8 th	Fall, Winter, Spring	Authorizer

Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT)	EBRW, Math	10 th , 11 th 8 th , 9 th , 10 th	Fall (PSAT NMSQT) Spring (PSAT)	State and Authorizer
Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)	EBRW, Math	11 th (qualifying 12 th)	Spring	State and Authorizer
Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark	ELA, Math	K-2nd	Fall, Winter, Spring	State

*EBRW- Evidenced Based Reading and Writing, ELA- English Language Arts

Are the NWEA testing windows the same each year?

No, as an authorizer we set testing windows each year for fall, winter, and spring. Although testing windows tend to be similar, dates do tend to fluctuate each calendar year. Testing windows are set to ensure proper spacing of the assessment so that growth is accurately measured and captured. Testing windows for the current year can be found on the LSSU CSO website under “Academic Documents and Resources.”

Is the administration of the NWEA MAP assessment required for winter?

Yes, unless waived by LSSU CSO. The Academy must provide a valid argument as to why the waiver is necessary for the winter testing window. Waivers are granted on a limited basis. Please make a request to Julie Hopper, Academic Assessment Specialist, at jhopper@lssu.edu.

How does LSSU evaluate academic performance?

LSSU CSO provides annual academic reports to each academy. Reports outline the degree to which the academy met their Educational Goals for that academic year. The Academic Assessment Specialist presents this information to the Academy Board each Fall at a regularly scheduled board meeting. In addition, each Academy has access to a Google folder containing a variety of current as well as historical reports. The LSSU CSO also publishes an annual Portfolio Report that outlines the degree to which all academies chartered by LSSU met their Educational Goals as a collective group.