

1. How will parents be notified of revised criteria and school process for SSA?

All information about SSA will be posted on the district website and linked to school websites. Parent night events will be planned in different geographic areas of the district. Schools will also receive information on students who are likely candidates for acceleration.

2. Who is eligible to be nominated?

Any student can be nominated and considered for SSA prior to the school's nomination window closing.

3. What is the time frame for SSA testing for 2013-2014?

Each school will test in days 161-170 on the instructional calendar.

4. How will students who qualify for SSA be served?

Schools will determine their own delivery of content. For some schools, instruction will be delivered through face-to-face instruction. For 5th graders taking sixth grade content or middle schools taking high school content, delivery may be through online instruction. Students may not travel to other another school/campus as services must be handled at the student's assigned school.

5. Who administers the assessment?

The principal will determine which school-based staff will administer the assessments.

6. How will tests be scored? How will scores be reported to schools?

Schools will deliver their completed answer sheets to the AIG office at Crossroads I. These can be left at the security desk marked to the attention of the AIG Office. Scores will be reported back to schools via email during the last ten days of school.

7. If a parent is nominating for both subjects, do we go ahead and administer the benchmark for both subjects and see in which subject the student qualifies, if at all, or do parents have to pick only one subject?

Students may be nominated in **ONE** area. A student would take the assessment in the ONE area of nomination.

8. If an 8th grader qualifies for SSA in ELA, is English I available on NCVPS?

Yes. The student will take English I on NCVPS. Note that middle school students do not receive honors credit via NCVPS.

9. If a student transfers schools after being approved for SSA, how will this be communicated to the new school?

The sending school should note this in the records for the receiving school. SSA contact at the sending school should also contact the SSA contact at the receiving school to inform them of this student's need. Parents should also be encouraged to share this upon enrolling at the new school.

10. How will schools access the SSA assessments and answer sheets?

The assessments will be loaded onto the AIG wiki. Schools that need answer sheets should will receive them through the AIG office.

11. If a student transfers into WCPSS after the 2013-2014 nomination window for SSA, will students have the opportunity to take the assessment?

SSA will only include a spring testing window. If a student transfers in later in the year, the principal should make a placement decision based on the available information, records, etc.

12. If students who are referred for testing have accommodations, do we provide them for the SSA assessments?

Yes.

13. Should the scores on the 1st Grade Mathematics assessments be averaged?

The scores for the K/1 Summative Assessments should not be averaged in anyway. Each task is assessing a student's performance on individual standards. In order for a student to be considered for SSA, the student should be proficient on all tasks provided on the assessment. The student must have a score of 3 (or higher) for each of the individual tasks, using the rubric provided in the admin manual.

14. Should only the guided reading scores on the 1st Grade ELA assessments be used for SSA criteria?

From a literacy perspective, the identified focus standards must be at the proficient level to be considered for SSA, and the reading level is only one piece of that puzzle. The mClass scoring software should be utilized to compute the overall score to include scores for written comprehension for the most accurate score to be used for SSA qualifications. Additionally, we know that K-1 are the foundational years for building literacy skills, and students who are not proficient in those basic (focus) standards, will experience difficulty in the upper elementary grades. We have to recognize the rigor and thinking involved in the CCSS, and we should ensure that students have a foundation to build upon.

15. How will elementary schools obtain resources for use with the 6th grade curriculum?

Schools providing the course online or face-to-face will provided textbooks on an as needed basis for students. Additional materials can be provided if not available at the school. Contact the middle school content area administrator for more information.

16. Who should grade the written portion and determine final score of 1st grade assessment for a child who is nominated for SSA?

The assessment should be graded by at least two scorers. If the scorers do not independently score it the same way, a third scorer should review the response.

17. Does a child receive AIG service even if they are being Single Subject Accelerated?

Yes.

18. Is it possible to get a more detailed report from Case 21 to show scores on specific standards?

No.

19. Which teacher is responsible for the gaps in instruction since they have to take the grade level EOG?

By requesting SSA, parents understand that students are not going to be given direct instruction on the content they are skipping. While supports can be put in place for identified gaps, this will not include direct instruction and likely will include some type of independent activities.

20. How do we handle specials if a student has to take a SSA course during specials?

By participating in SSA, parents are aware that they may miss something in order to take the accelerated course. It should be handled on an individual basis.

21. What about ADM requirements in K-2?

Since it is not an all-day placement, it should not impact the class size limits.

22. Do AIG teachers know they could be asked to provide supplemental instruction?

We have met with AIG teachers to discuss this process with them. They know they will be the main point of contact for SSA. In addition, we have communicated that schools have the ability to make the decision about service delivery that best suits the needs of students and the school.

23. What if a student is pulled out mid-year?

Students will get grades for the class to which they are assigned until the placement changes.

24. Who can make the decision to remove the student from the SSA class?

This should be a collaborative decision between the parent and the school to return the student to their grade-level content. If a student is struggling with the course, an intervention plan should be initiated and documented.

25. How is the growth calculated according to EVAAS?

The growth will not be attributed to either teacher.

26. Will they always take the grade level EOG?

Yes, it is a state mandate that students take the EOG for the grade to which they are assigned.

27. What are district expectations for taking Case 21 benchmarks during the school year.

Our expectation is that students will take benchmarks for the course they are currently taking so that those scores can help to guide instruction.