

**BURLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT  
G 16: STUDENT ASSESSMENT**

**Policy**

It is the policy of the Burlington School District to maintain an assessment system that continuously evaluates student learning and links curricular, professional development, and budgetary decisions directly to the need for increased student performance.

The goal of student assessment is to understand how students are performing in relation to local and state standards. Based on student assessment information, teachers, administrators and parents will work together to design and implement strategies to meet the needs of individual students as well as the District's overall goals for student achievement.

**Implementation**

The Superintendent will appoint an assessment committee consisting of administrators and professional staff, a Board member, parent, other community member and student(s) when appropriate. The role of the committee will be to develop and review the local comprehensive assessment plan, the long-range plan that identifies the types of local assessments in which the school will participate.

Based on the District's plan, the Superintendent or designee, in collaboration with Principal(s) and teachers, will annually review and update a schedule to assess student performance regularly throughout the school year and from year to year. Assessments will measure student performance against standards outlined in the Vermont Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities or comparable standards. The results of student assessments will guide schools in:

- 1.making decisions about instruction, professional development, educational resources and curriculum; and
- 2.reporting to the public on student performance measures and progress in the standards outlined by the Vermont Framework.

**State Comprehensive Assessment System**

The Principal will administer the assessment instruments included in the Vermont Comprehensive Assessment System. All students in the School District will be assessed. Students with a disability, limited English proficiency or have a Student Support Team plan may be given an alternative form of assessment upon documentation of a team decision following state guidelines. The District will account for the assessment of 100% of its students.

**Local Comprehensive Assessment System**

The Superintendent or designee will oversee the development and implementation of a local comprehensive assessment system that includes the state-level assessments, is aligned with the

Vermont Framework as amended from time to time or comparable standards and is consistent with the current Vermont Comprehensive Assessment System. Students will be assessed in those standards associated with the Fields of Knowledge, the Vital Results, the arts, health and safety education, physical education, foreign language and applied learning. Local assessments may include a number of instruments and techniques such as standards-based, national norm referenced, local curriculum criterion- referenced, portfolio assessment, exit interviews, senior projects and related District assessment processes and systems.

The expectations and performance criteria of the system will be clear and be communicated to teachers, administrators, students, parents and other community members. The local system will employ a balance and variety of assessment strategies, both classroom-based and school-level assessments, in order to develop useful information on student achievement. The school will also provide students with the opportunity to evaluate their own work. The local assessment plan will be fully implemented by September 2005.

School administrators and staff will use the assessment system to determine the answers to questions, which include the following and will report to the Board annually by December of each year:

1. How are the students performing in relationship to local and state standards?
2. Why are the students performing at the level they are?
3. What could the school do differently in order to increase the number of students meeting or exceeding local and/or state standards?
4. How can educators, parents and students monitor progress?

The Superintendent or designee will oversee the development of a comprehensive computerized assessment database that includes all assessment results for each individual student, for each grade, for the school, and the District. This database will include information that tracks progress over time. Individual assessment information will be reported to parents in a format that outlines results and implications clearly. Parent-teacher communication about assessment results and implications will be encouraged.

**Legal Reference(s):** 20 U.S.C. §§1400 et seq. (IDEA); 1 V.S.A. § 312 (Open meetings); 16 V.S.A. § 165(a)(2) (Public School Quality Standards); 16 V.S.A. § 164(9) (State comprehensive assessment); Vermont State Board of Education Rules §§ 2120.2.1, 2120.2.2; Vermont Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities

**Cross References:** Professional Development GCIA; evaluation of Instruction Programs IM; Curriculum Coordination IF; Selecting Instructional Material IIA;

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