



DISTRICT NUMERACY ASSESSMENT

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the District Numeracy Assessment (DNA)?

It is not a math test, but a numeracy test. It could most closely be considered a problem solving test. The DNA is used to determine a students' proficiency in the five skills of the [numeracy cycle](#).

What is “numeracy”?

Numeracy is the willingness and perseverance to interpret and apply mathematical understanding to solve problems in contextualized situations, and to analyze and communicate these solutions in ways relevant to the given context.

Why should I bother with the District Numeracy Assessment?

The DNA has been written to align with the Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment, which is a requirement for students to graduate. Writing this assessment exposes students to the type of thinking that is required for that assessment because it is different from a traditional math test. Continued exposure and feedback will help students perform well in Grade 10. Today's graduates need to have skills that are more sophisticated than basic machines. Universities, colleges and employers tell us they are looking for graduates who are creative, have strong critical thinking skills and can problem solve.

Currently, we have FSAs for provincial level data and class assessments for school level, but we do not have district level data to help schools know if they are seeing improvement in student learning in this area. In the past, we have used the Grade 7 (or Grade 6) Math Assessment for this purpose, but with the change in curriculum a new assessment was required. A district team of classroom teachers and administrators at the elementary and secondary level worked with Dr. Peter Liljedahl to develop a framework for our new assessment.

Is the District Numeracy Assessment mandatory?

The district will collect district-wide data for students in grades 3 and 6 starting in the 2020-2021 school year.

Although only mandatory in grades 3 and 6, the DNA assessment is available for all grades within the grade range of 3 to 9.

How do I access the District Numeracy Assessment?

All administration protocols, rubrics, numeracy problems and student response sheets can be found on the website: <http://sd73dna.weebly.com/>

Who writes the District Numeracy Assessment?

The DNA is intended for students in grades 3-9 and was created in levels, so teachers with combined classes can administer one assessment to the whole class. Level 1 is for grades 3 and 4. Level 2 is for grades 5, 6 and 7. Level 3 is for grades 8 and 9. If teachers have a combined class between two levels, they can select the level that makes the best sense for their students.

Who marks the assessment?

Teachers assess the student response sheets on a [rubric](#) and enter scores on a data sheet.

When is the assessment available?

These assessments are designed to be administered twice a year. The first is to gather baseline data and the second is to determine if progress has been made. The first administration period is Nov. 4-Nov. 22, with data entry to be completed by Nov. 29. The second administration period is Mar. 30-Apr. 17, with data entry to be completed by Apr. 24.

How is the District Numeracy Assessment administered?

Administration protocols can be found at the website www.sd73dna.weebly.com. There is a collaborative activation activity followed by independent student responses. This is not a timed test. Most students should finish within 45 minutes, but extra time may be necessary for some students to do their best work. Calculators are allowed. Implement usual adaptations for students.

How is data collected?

School secretaries print the data collection sheets from KATE (on Zimblet login) and distribute to teachers. Printed data sheets will be used to record results of whole numbers. Decimals and fractions (ie 2.5) can not be entered into the data collection system. Results will be recorded, compiled and shared with schools once the assessment has closed. The school office gathers the data collection sheets from teachers and inputs the data. Data is compiled, collated and returned to schools in a timely manner. The data sheets look similar to the NFRA data sheets.

What will I learn from the data?

The DNA assesses deeper learning that applies mathematical reasoning to solve real world problems. The numeracy skills of interpreting, applying, solving, analyzing and communicating will be tracked similarly to the NFRA.