

**Date:** August 24, 2023  
**To:** All Principals  
**From:** James Russo, Senior Executive Director  
Curriculum and Digital Learning  
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**Recipients:** Administrators and All Instructional Staff  
**Subject:** Guidance for Standards Based Unit Assessments (SBUA)

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*Research supports formative assessments as the third most influential factor among 138 factors for students' achievement. Academic achievement of students where formative assessment practices were applied achieved significantly higher results than those who did not utilize consistent formative assessment practices. (Ozan & Kincal; Hattie).*

#### **What is SBUA?**

Standards Based Unit Assessments (SBUA) are formative assessments created within each content area by the Curriculum and Digital Learning team. The Standards Based Unit Assessments are a tool used to inform teachers of student acquisition of knowledge aligned to skills taught during the most recent unit. These unit assessments align to the recommended order of instruction and are designed to monitor student understanding prior to reaching an end of year summative assessment. Due to the formative nature and the varying level of difficulty of these assessments, **scores are not be used as grades, but only as an informative measure of student understanding.** Student performance on these assessments cannot be related to a traditional A-F grading scale.

#### **What are formative assessments used for?**

- Support teaching and learning
- Provide evidence of your student's current skill sets, their understanding, and misconceptions while allowing the opportunity for feedback
- Provide teachers with an additional data point to be used in conjunction with daily assignments and/or teacher created assessments to inform instructional decisions about supporting students

#### **What are some best practices for utilizing data from SBUAs?**

- Invest students in their own learning
- Use the performance bands versus the percentage correct when evaluating student performance on these assessments and determining reteach opportunities
- Review results to uncover misconceptions to targeted adjustment to upcoming instruction
- Use the results as a part of a continuum to demonstrate growth (re-teach/re-assess)
- Consider the goal of the SBUA as formative, not summative