

REACH Performance Tasks

School Year 2019 - 2020 Testing Dates

Fall (BOY): September 16, 2019 - November 1, 2019

Winter (MOY3): February 3, 2020 - March 2, 2020

Spring (MOY4): April 20, 2020 - May 15, 2020

Spring (EOY): May 4, 2020 - June 5, 2020

What are REACH Performance Tasks?

REACH Performance Tasks (REACH PTs) are performance-based, formative assessments that are written by exemplar CPS teachers under the guidance and support of district-wide Content Area teams. REACH PTs are administered at the beginning and the end of the school year to measure student growth within a specific subject or course. REACH tasks are district-mandated assessments that are incorporated into teachers' student growth REACH evaluations. A performance task is a written or hands-on demonstration of mastery, or progress towards mastery, of selected standards or skills. Performance tasks require students to perform or to generate meaning on their own rather than select answers from a predetermined list. The REACH PTs can yield rich insights not only into what students know and do not yet know, but how they apply their knowledge to complex questions or tasks. This provides teachers with formative information they can use to help students improve not just their content knowledge, but the facility with which they can "put it all together."

What are the purposes of these assessments?

In 2010, the State of Illinois passed the Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA), which required Chicago Public Schools to begin implementing enhanced teacher and principal evaluation systems in the 2012-2013 school year. Recognizing Educators Advancing Chicago's Students (REACH) is the district's enhanced, comprehensive system for teacher evaluation and support. Under REACH, the largest part of a teacher's overall performance rating (or REACH Score) is based on observations of teaching practice, conducted by school leaders and administrators based on the CPS Framework for Teaching. According to PERA, a teacher's performance rating also must include two different measures of student growth. Under REACH, this means student growth is to be measured via traditional and performance assessments.

REACH Performance Tasks provide teachers with data and insight into their students' current level of performance in 2-3 important standards that will be covered throughout the year. REACH Performance Task growth is also factored into teacher evaluations.

When is the assessment given?

Once in the beginning of the year and once at the end of the year. Teachers on a semester or block schedule can administer the beginning of year during either the MOY3 or MOY4 windows.

How long does it take to complete the test?

45 minutes

How do teachers obtain REACH Performance Tasks?

Teachers may order BOY PTs in August and EOY PTs in March using the English and Spanish Translation Order Forms available on the [REACH Performance Task page](#) of the CPS Knowledge Center. All ordered tasks will be printed and delivered during the first few weeks of the PT administration window. Teachers who do not order their tasks must print them from the [REACH Performance Task page](#).

Who should be assessed?

The number of students who should be assessed depends on the content area and grade level one teaches.

How are results reported?

REACH Performance Task results are reported to teachers in their REACH Summative Report, which is released to educators in the fall of the following year.

Where can I find additional information about REACH Performance Tasks?

CPS staff can find additional information on the [REACH Performance Task page](#) and in the [1920 CPS REACH PT Admin Manual](#).

CPS staff can also email reachperformancetasks@cps.edu with any questions.