

## **Assessment Commission Requested Definitions**

The survey described in the report only includes federal, state and local assessments that are mandated by federal or state entities or local school systems for all children in a grade level, a specific course or discipline, or an identified student population. The legislation specifically states that “assessment” does not include a teacher-developed quiz or test.

### **(1) What constitutes mandated vs. non-mandated assessment?**

#### **Mandated Assessment:**

A mandated assessment is one that is required to be implemented by law, regulation, policy and/or practice; it is mandatory to administer the specified assessment.

#### **Non-Mandated Assessment:**

A non-mandated assessment is one that is not required to be implemented by law, regulation, policy and/or practice; it is optional to administer the specified assessment.

### **(2) What is the distinction between locally and federal/ state mandated assessments?**

#### **Locally Mandated Assessments:**

It is centrally determined that everyone in the district must give the assessment to an identified group of students, such as students determined by grade level, program, or subject area. Locally mandated assessments vary greatly in number, scope, format, and whether they are locally developed or vendor purchased. This variation reflects the strong tradition of local autonomy and decision-making that exists in Maryland. Local school boards are elected or appointed and superintendents are hired to make decisions that best reflect the values and desires of local communities. The following are the most commonly reported types of locally mandated assessments: Diagnostic Assessments, Pre-Tests/Benchmarks/Interim Assessments, Quarterly Assessments/Unit Assessments, End of Course Exams/Post Tests, Vendor-Produced Assessments for Screening, Instructional Placement, Progress Monitoring, and Assessments to Measure Cognitive Ability.

#### **Federal/State Mandated Assessments:**

There is a federal/state law or regulation that requires everyone in the state to give the assessment to an identified group of students, such as students determined by grade level, program, or subject area. State mandated assessments include the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA), Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), Maryland School Assessment (MSA) Science, Alt-MSA Science, High School Assessments (HSA), and National Center for State Collaborative (NCSC) Alternative Assessment. In addition to being mandated by the State, some of these meet a federal mandate as well.

#### **Teacher-Developed Assessments:**

There are many assessments given in more than 1400 Maryland schools that are created by individual teachers, grade level teams, subject area teams and some are building created and/or determined. These assessments are specifically excluded from this report by legislation. Daily quizzes, weekly tests, and in some local school systems even final exams are entirely teacher-developed. Teacher-developed assessments are not considered locally mandated assessments.