



2012-2013 PLTW Assessment Program

The purpose of this document is to provide valuable information that highlights changes in the test enrollment, delivery, and reporting processes.

The 2012-2013 PLTW assessment program includes a summative assessment series for 10 of the 12 high school courses. Within the Pathway to Engineering and Biomedical Sciences programs, the following courses will include a single End of Course assessment:

- Aerospace Engineering
- Biotechnical Engineering
- Civil Engineering and Architecture
- Computer Integrated Manufacturing
- Digital Electronics
- Human Body Systems
- Introduction to Engineering Design
- Medical Interventions
- Principles of the Biomedical Sciences
- Principles of Engineering

All students in the above courses are required to complete the End of Course assessments per the school district agreement. The End of Course assessments are constructed to be indicators of student achievement, and the scores are utilized in many ways, including as the basis for college credit and accountability decisions at local schools, post-secondary institutions, and state departments of education. PLTW also uses the aggregated information to make data-driven curricular and professional development adjustments. A high level of standardization is necessary to allow for the valid interpretation of scores. In order for the testing process to run smoothly, we ask that guidelines set forth in this and future documents are respected.

Assessment System Improvements

The 2012-2013 PLTW assessment program includes a variety of new features to help simplify and improve the testing experience for both teachers and students. This year the following improvements have been made to the assessment system:

- Student rostering will be completed via school-level Excel file upload as opposed to manual entry of individual students/classes.
- All assessments will be administered online, eliminating the need for teachers to grade and manually enter test scores.
- Each course will have one assessment, eliminating the redundancy of a two-test format.
- Tests will be structured to allow for a midway stopping point, allowing schools with shorter class periods to take the tests over two days.
- An increased security protocol will allow for all students to have a fair testing experience.
- Norm-referenced End of Course scores will be reported, providing more information than previous scores.
- A new data reporting feature will allow teachers and school administrators to access current and historic PLTW test data.



Testing Logistics

PLTW will have two testing cycles during the 2012-2013 school year. The Fall/Winter cycle will be open from December 3, 2012 through March 8, 2013. The Spring cycle will be open from April 22, 2013 through June 21, 2013. Assessments cannot be taken outside of the given testing cycle dates.

Each course will include a single End of Course assessment composed of between 40 and 50 selected response items. Students will have a total of 80 minutes to complete the online assessments. Since most class periods will not allow for a single 80-minute testing block, the assessment system will allow for the test to be broken up into two 40-minute subtests if necessary. All students in a class will be required to complete each subtest once they have started it in order to maintain test security. Details regarding this process will be provided at a future date.

The guidelines to maintain the standardization of the testing environment will be provided prior to the opening of the Fall/Winter testing cycle. This document will contain information regarding resources students can use during the test as well as a statement of instruction that should be read to students immediately prior to test administration. Additional security protocol will be outlined in future documents.

After students have completed the tests, their scores will be reported as norm-referenced End of Course stanine scores. Student score reports and interpretive documentation will be available for both teachers and administrators to download via the my.pltw.org data site.

Student Registration

For the 2012-2013 school year, all schools will be required to roster their PLTW students through the my.pltw.org data reporting site. This bulk upload process will allow schools to submit a single file that captures all necessary student demographic information, including student state identification numbers, gender, ethnicity, etc. Student IEP status and requested testing accommodations will also be submitted through the data file instead of utilizing hard copy forms, which is a departure from past years' procedures. Once the student roster files are received, PLTW will load the information into the online assessment platform so that no manual input of student demographic data is necessary. Principals will be responsible for ensuring that these files are submitted.

In order to increase the security and accuracy of the data, manual entry or deletion of students into the assessment system will not be allowed. However, teachers will be asked to verify rosters and will be able to submit add/drop requests prior to testing. Details on this process will be available in the coming weeks. All schools testing during the upcoming Fall/Winter testing cycle or that follow a yearlong schedule will be required to submit student roster files between September 15 and November 15, 2012. Those schools on spring block schedules will be required to submit second semester student roster files between March 1 and April 15, 2013.

Communication

Additional documents will be provided throughout the year in order to explain the details of the assessment program. This information will be provided on the Virtual Academy as well as the my.pltw.org data reporting site. When documents are available, an announcement will be made in the Action Bulletin and on the @PLTWassessment Twitter page. Any questions regarding the PLTW Assessment Program can be sent to the Assessment Team at assessment@pltw.org.

Summary and Timeline: End of Course Assessment Procedures

September 15- November 15, 2012	→	Within two weeks of test administration	→	December 3- March 8, 2012	→	March 1- April 15, 2013	→	Within two weeks of test administration	→	April 22- June 21, 2013
Rostering window for schools testing during the Fall/Winter testing cycle		Roster verification		First EoC testing window for Fall semester and trimester long courses		Rostering window for schools testing during the Spring testing cycle		Roster verification		Second EoC testing window
School principal is responsible for roster upload		PLTW teacher is responsible for verifying roster and will need to submit requests to add/delete students at that time. Principals will need to verify requests to add/delete students.		PLTW teacher is responsible for EoC assessment administration		School principal is responsible for roster upload		PLTW teacher is responsible for verifying roster and will need to submit requests to add/delete students at that time. Principals will need to verify requests to add/delete students.		PLTW teacher is responsible for EoC assessment administration
To upload rosters go to: http://my.pltw.org		To verify rosters go to: http://my.pltw.org				To upload rosters go to: http://my.pltw.org		To verify rosters go to: http://my.pltw.org		