

## Activities for Introduction and Overview

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### Activity 1

This activity will help you answer the essential question:

- What are the components of my state's assessment system?
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#### Activity 1: Exploring my state's assessment system

You may complete this activity individually or in groups.

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Use the words in italics to search your state's educational assessment website (in Kansas, this is located at <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=420>). Think about and note what you can use for your students. If you are working in groups, discuss and share your thoughts and how you can use this information.

What do tests measure?

1. Locate your state's *educational standards* for reading, math, social studies, science, and writing.
2. Can you locate *scope and sequence* charts to track standards through grade level years?
3. What *key concepts and skills* does your state test through the *tested grades*?
4. What *cut scores or performance levels* does your state set for student proficiency?
5. What special *standards* does your state have for *English Language Learners* and *Students with Disabilities*?
6. What can you use for your students?

In what ways do they measure it?

1. Can you locate *sample questions, test parameters, or item specification* charts used in the design of your state tests?
2. Does your state use *multiple-choice items, constructed response, or performance assessments*?
3. Does your state provide *assessment overviews* with information on *test formats, testing windows, accommodations, alternative assessments, and score reports*?
4. What can you use for your students?

How should teachers and students go about preparing for and taking state tests?

1. Can you locate *Examiner's Manuals*?
2. Does your state offer manuals to help you decide on appropriate *accommodations* for students?
3. What testing provisions are made for *English Language Learners* or *Students With Disabilities* to have greater access to the state tests?
4. What kinds of guidance does your state provide for test *preparation, use of manipulatives, standards of ethical practice*.
5. Does your state offer *formative or interim assessments*?
6. What can you use for your students?

What does it all mean?

1. What kinds of *score reports* does your state provide?
2. How should *AYP Results* be used?
3. Does your state offer assistance with *analyzing data* to improve instruction?
4. What can you use for your students and their parents?