



Education Center
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Dear Parents,

As part of our ongoing commitment to communicate with you about your child's academic progress, the District is excited to update you on our second year of Galileo Benchmark Assessments. These assessments are a key component of our District Assessment Program. You may have heard bits and pieces from your child or fellow parents related to the benchmark assessments, which can be taken on-line or in classrooms using a paper and pencil format. We believe it is important for us to update you on the progress of the District Assessment Plan so that you have an opportunity to monitor your child's progress on the Galileo Benchmark Assessments each quarter. We hope that this will enable you to assist and support your child in school.

The Benefits and Goal of the District's Assessment Plan

Our District Assessment Plan is designed to provide students, parents, and teachers with valid, timely, and reliable assessment results regarding the mastery of Arizona's State Standards to improve teaching and learning in our schools. Our District has identified Essential Performance Objectives that are key to success and mastery on AIMS. These Essential Performance Objectives represent a subset of the State standards and are assessed on our Galileo Benchmarks. These data will be used by classroom teachers to determine whether students are prepared to meet the standards on AIMS at the elementary, middle and high school level. Especially at the high school level, these data will be used to determine whether students are likely to pass the AIMS graduation requirement.

While one of the goals of our Galileo Benchmarks is to prepare students to be successful on State Standards and therefore pass AIMS, the District is also mindful that the results of the benchmarks must be used to determine the overall progress of all students. Therefore, these data and results become more meaningful and valuable when they are used as an instructional tool as well as an assessment tool. The District strives to provide teachers professional development focused on using assessment data as an instructional tool to modify future instruction for students. The use of these data benefits all students, even those already exceeding the standards. Instruction should be tailored to address the individual needs of students who have not mastered the Essential Performance Objectives as well as for students who have mastered these objectives, so that all students can show academic gains.

Communicating Results to Parents- The Goal for Second Year Implementation

As part of the District's effort to focus on communicating Galileo results to parents, you will begin to receive quarterly benchmark reports for your child that will show you how your child is progressing on mastering the Essential Performance Objectives. There are two ways to receive your child's benchmark results: paper version or online. Each school site will be determining the method of reporting benchmark results. For more information about your school's reporting plan please contact the assistant principal or testing coordinator.

For more information about Galileo, please feel free to visit the Assessment Technology Inc. web page at www.ati-online.com.

Please feel free to contact your school testing coordinator or Dr. Ildiko Laczko-Kerr at 480-484-6197 if you have questions about Galileo Benchmark Assessments.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ildiko Laczko-Kerr
Director, Student Information Management & Accountability Reporting