

POLICY

Local Option

In addition to the state-administered assessment instruments, Heritage Academy may adopt and administer criterion-referenced or norm-referenced assessment instruments, or both, at any grade level. Any such locally adopted norm-referenced assessment instrument must be economical, nationally recognized, and state-approved.

For purposes of this Policy, “assessment instrument” means a Heritage Academy-commissioned achievement test, either nationally normed or criterion-referenced, that is group administered and reported publicly (such as to the Board) in the aggregate.

A company or organization scoring an assessment instrument shall send test results to Heritage Academy for verification. Heritage Academy shall have 90 days to verify the accuracy of test data and report the results to the Board.

Heritage Academy shall follow procedures for test security and confidentiality set forth in 19 TAC Chapter 101, Subchapter C. Education Code 39.026, 39.032, 19 TAC 101.101.

Preparation for State-Administered Assessments

In any subject area for which a state assessment is administered, Heritage Academy may not administer locally required assessments designed to prepare students for state assessments to any student on more than 10% of the instructional days in any school year. A campus-level planning and decision-making committee may limit the administration of locally required assessments to 10% or a lower percentage of the instructional days in any school year. This prohibition does not apply to the administration of college preparation assessments, advanced placement tests, international baccalaureate examinations, or state assessments. Education Code 39.0262.

Benchmark Assessment Instruments

“Benchmark assessment instrument” means a Heritage Academy-required assessment instrument designed to prepare students for a corresponding state-administered assessment instrument.

Heritage Academy may not administer to any student more than two benchmark assessment instruments to prepare the student for a corresponding state-administered assessment instrument.

This prohibition does not apply to the administration of a college preparation assessment instrument, including the PSAT, the ACTPlan, the SAT, or the ACT, an advanced placement test, an international baccalaureate examination, or an independent classroom examination designed or adopted and administered by a classroom teacher.

A parent of or person standing in parental relation to a student who has special needs, as determined in accordance with Commissioner rule, may request administration to the student of additional benchmark assessment instruments.

Education Code 39.0263.

College Preparation Assessments

The following policies apply only if the state legislature appropriates funds for the purposes described below.

Each school year, and at state cost, Heritage Academy shall administer an established, valid, reliable, and nationally norm-referenced preliminary college preparation assessment instrument:

1. To students in the spring of the eighth grade for the purpose of diagnosing the academic strengths and deficiencies of students before entrance into high school; and
2. To students in the tenth grade for the purpose of measuring a student's progress toward readiness for college and the workplace.

High school students, in the spring of the eleventh grade or during the twelfth grade, may select and take once, at state cost, one of the valid, reliable, and nationally norm-referenced assessment instruments used by colleges and universities as part of their undergraduate admissions processes. A high school student is not prohibited from taking a test more than once, at his or her own expense. Education Code 39.0261.