



Parents' Guide to Administering and Monitoring Diagnostics at Home

Overview

The SDPBC administers Diagnostic Assessments that align and mirror standardized assessments from the State of Florida. A Diagnostic Assessment is a different type of assessment than teacher-created quizzes. The upcoming Diagnostic Assessments are to be completed at home. It is important that you do not help your child with answering questions on a Diagnostic Assessment, but that you provide support and encouragement to ensure the information received accurately reflects what your child knows and what your child still needs to learn. Here is a checklist that can help:

Recommended Actions:

1. Familiarize Yourself.

How is this assessment different? Diagnostic Assessments are designed to be used for instructional purposes only. The assessments drive classroom instruction and assist teachers with personalizing lessons within their classrooms. Diagnostics will be used to determine if remediation or enrichment are needed for purposeful instruction with students. Diagnostics used and administered appropriately will provide a productive learning environment for students and will ensure students have mastered standards required for grade level proficiency. Scoring ranges are analyzed by the teachers and help to identify your child's precise achievement level on a variety of skills and standards required for each grade level.

Why is my student being asked to take this assessment at home?

The purpose of this assessment is not to assign your child a score or grade. The results of this Diagnostic assessment will allow your child's teacher to make informed decisions pertaining to their individualized learning and to overall class instruction.

2. Get Organized.

- Determine a time and location for your child to take the Diagnostic Assessment.** Each Diagnostic for any given subject will be administered at home in a distance learning environment and should take 90 minutes total to complete. Keep in mind that principals/schools will notify parents about dates and time.
 - For younger students, (in grades 3 through 5), we suggest splitting this time up into several shorter sessions.
 - For older students, (in grades 6 and above), please plan accordingly and allow for short breaks.
- Ensure you have correct login information from the student's teacher.**

- Gather paper and pencils for your child.** Your child will need scratch paper to solve problems on the Diagnostic for Mathematics and may find it helpful to take notes during parts of the Diagnostic for Reading. Also, the teacher may ask your child to show work for how he or she solved a problem or figured out an answer.

- 3. **Prepare and Motivate Your Child.**
 - Explain to your child that they are taking the Diagnostic Assessment to determine how well they understand information measured by a State Standard. Please motivate and encourage them to do their best.**
 - Explain to your child that** the Diagnostic will have questions that are difficult for them, but reassure them that it is OK to select the answer they think is best and move on when a question seems too difficult.

- 4. **Actively Monitor your Child**
 - Monitor and encourage your child as they are completing the Diagnostic Assessment.** Remind your child to work out the math questions on paper (show work). If you notice your child getting tired, frustrated, or speeding through the questions, offer encouragement, suggest to skip the problem and come back to it later, or suggest that they take a short break. Remember to make sure they pace themselves during the test, so they can finish the test in about 90 minutes.
 - Please “Do not assist,” your child with answering Diagnostic Assessment questions,** as this will NOT create a true measure of whether your child understands the standard. It gives the teacher false data that makes personalized learning for remediation and enrichment difficult.

- 5. **Confirm Completion.**
 - Ensure your child has fully completed the Diagnostic Assessment.** Your child will see a message displayed on the screen indicating he has successfully completed his assessment after submitting the test. If there is a question about whether your child has fully completed the assessment, or accidentally submitted by mistake, please contact the classroom teacher immediately. Make sure your child logs off after completing the assessment.

Final Testing Tips:

- Make sure they get a good night’s sleep and eat a nutritious breakfast.
- Aim for a stress-free morning.
- Encourage them to do their best and use their strategies.
- Finally, contact your child’s teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

