NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOLS
SPIRIT | PRIDE | EXCELLENCE
Achieves



Academic Update (Balanced Assessment System)

October 28, 2025

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Chief of Learning and Leadership

School Year 2025-2026

NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOLS | ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITIES

STRONG FOUNDATION BRIGHT FUTURE

ADVANCING ACADEMICS, SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT, AND STUDENT SUPPORTS

- *Strengthen the district's literacy foundation; clarify and document the district's literacy improvement philosophy, strategy, and resources*
- *Strengthen the instructional core (implement research-based instructional practices, interventions, and support systems in service of ensuring rigorous, Tier 1 Instruction, district-wide*

ADVANCING OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

- *Advance school safety through coordinated improvement strategy*
- *Ensure the development of a multi-year Strategic Plan*
- *Identify and implement necessary operational efficiencies to streamline core systems and enhance organizational effectiveness*
- *Evaluate district-wide facilities to explore opportunities for future use, right sizing, efficiency, upgrades, and modernization*

ADVANCING CULTURE & ENGAGEMENT

- *Develop a commonly applied, Tier I behavior support and intervention framework*
- *Deepen community and stakeholder engagement*

ADVANCING INNOVATION & ORGANIZATIONAL STABILITY

- *Strengthen pathways and programs for students that support workforce development, aligned with community needs and industry partnerships*
- *Evaluate and modernize policies to promote coherence and to correspond with the current state of the district*
- *Invest in the professional growth of current and aspiring leaders to strengthen executive capacity, develop a sustainable leadership pipeline, and ensure high-impact leadership at all levels*

NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Critical School Improvement Systems

- High Quality Resources
- Rigorous Tier 1 Instruction
- Balanced Assessment to Measure Student Progress and Teacher Effectiveness
- Intervention and Support System
- Leader & Teacher Development



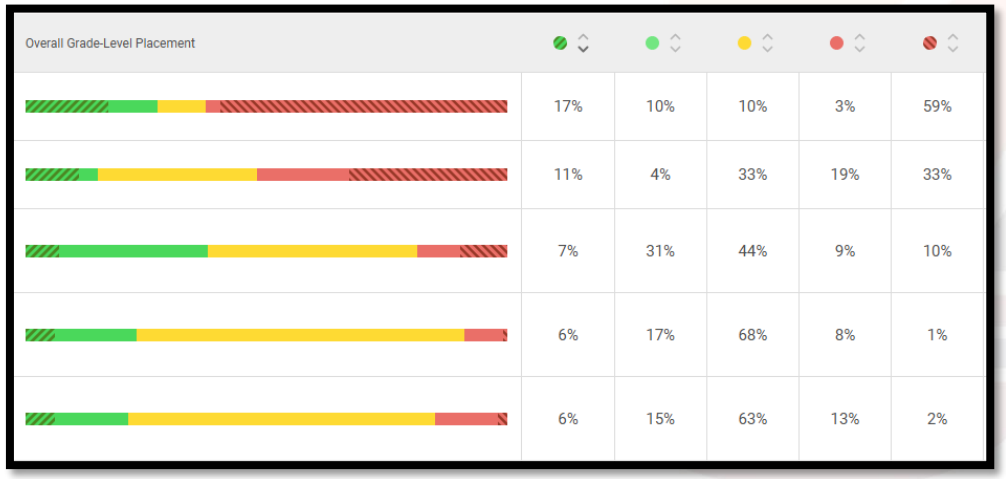
Georgia Department of Education

NCS ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

	Development	Platform	Purpose	Frequency
Universal Screener	i-Ready Diagnostics	i-Ready	• Adapts to each student's performance, identifying strengths and growth areas. • Offers insights to guide personalized instruction and can help predict performance on the Georgia Milestones Assessment System (GMAS). • Used to assess skill acquisition	Administered 3x a year (Fall, Winter, Spring) to all students in grades K-10
Interim Assessments	Created by K-12 Assessment Solutions using NCS Pacing Guides	Lennections Learning Connections	• Mirrors GMAS rigor • Used to evaluate learning, guide instruction, ensure accountability, and inform decisions on student progress. • Used to measure standard master	Administered 3x a year (Fall, Winter, Spring)
Summative Assessments	Created by Teaching & Learning specialists, Curriculum Ambassadors, and teachers in Lennections. Vetted in tested subject areas and all core middle school subject areas by K-12 Assessment Solutions	Lennections Learning Connections **(ES/MS)** Progress Learning **(HS)**	• Evaluates student learning at the end of an instructional period, measuring content mastery to inform grades, advancement decisions, and instructional effectiveness.	Administered at the end of each unit
Formative Assessments	Teacher-created using Lennections (ES/MS) or Progress Learning (HS). Common across collaborative teams	Lennections Learning Connections **(ES/MS)** Progress Learning **(HS)**	• Monitors learning in real time, offering immediate feedback to identify gaps, adjust instruction, and support ongoing student growth.	Ongoing - based on student needs, pacing, and instructional goals

i-Ready Universal Screener Implementation Overview

- Identify students who may need early interventions
- Determine placement for specialized programs such as **Gifted Education** and the **Early Intervention Program (EIP)**
- Tailor classroom instruction to meet students exactly where they are



Overall Grade-Level Placement					
	17%	10%	10%	3%	59%
	11%	4%	33%	19%	33%
	7%	31%	44%	9%	10%
	6%	17%	68%	8%	1%
	6%	15%	63%	13%	2%

Example Data

Personalized Learning Pathways – Based on Diagnostic Results

- **ELEMENTARY STUDENTS** engage in targeted instruction for **30 minutes per week** in both math and reading during designated intervention periods embedded within the school day.
- **MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS** participate in this personalized learning for **40 minutes per week** in math and reading, also during scheduled intervention times integrated into their daily schedules.
- **K-8 STUDENTS** receive skill-specific, **teacher-led small group** lessons.



NCS ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

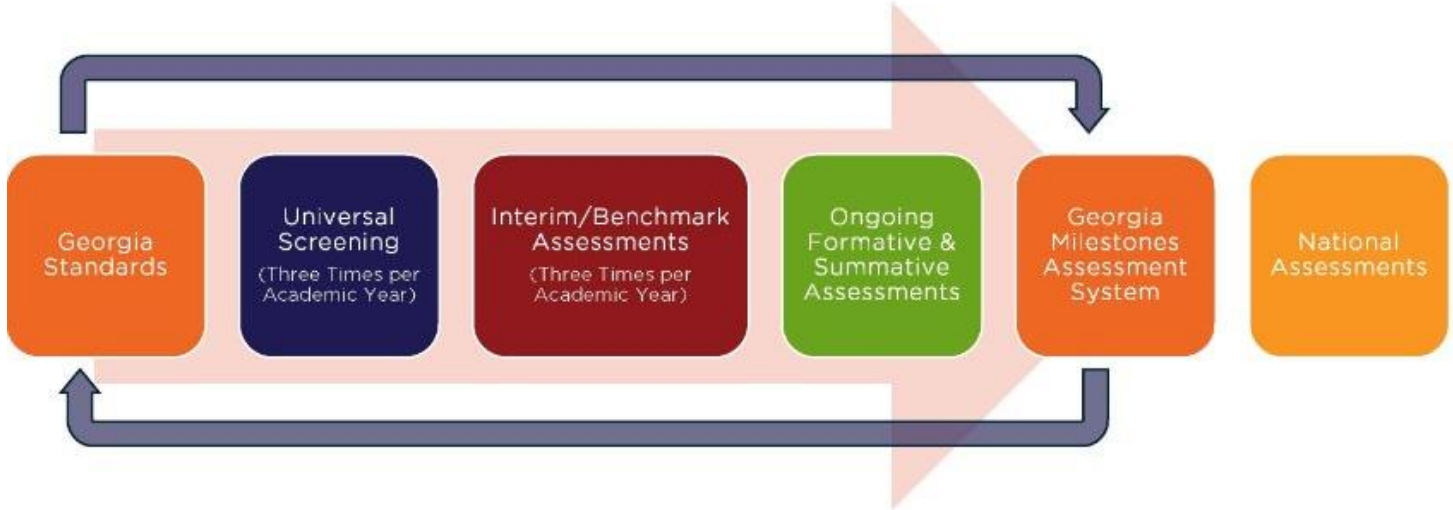
Assessment Updates SY 25-26

Balanced Assessment System & Data Warehouse

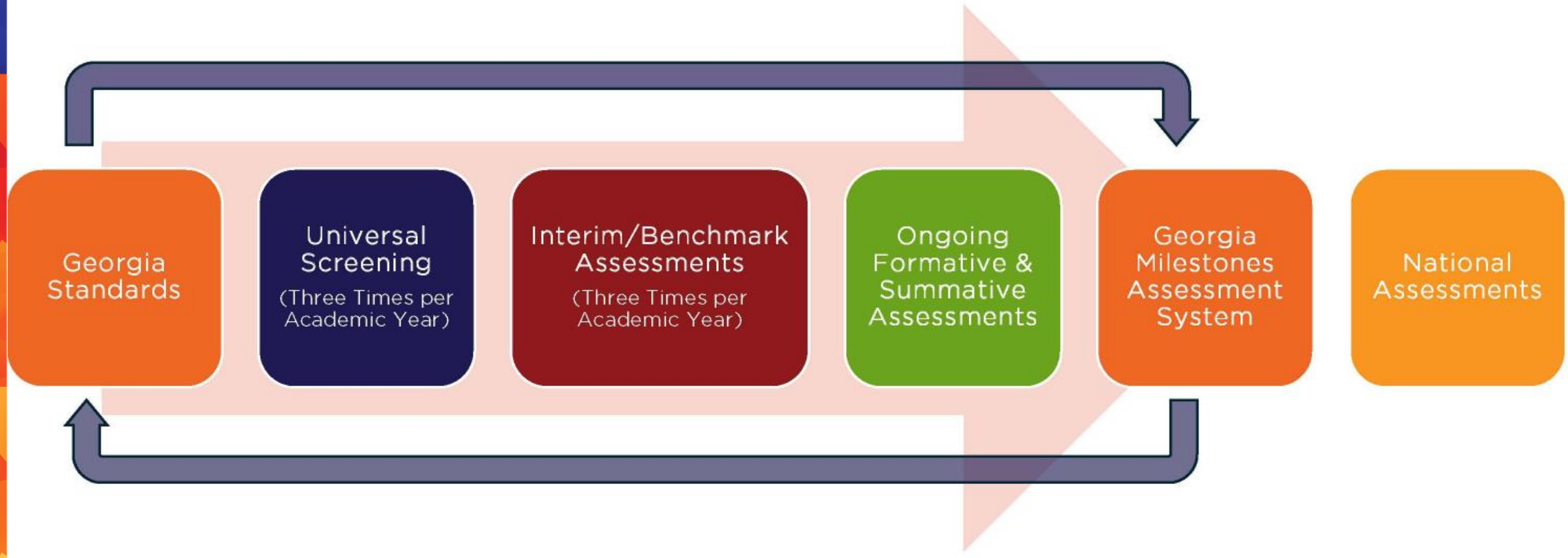
What is a Balanced Assessment System?

A **Balanced Assessment System** indicates our efforts in Newton County Schools to collect information from multiple sources to best understand our students' learning. We can then use that information to make decisions about how to support individual learning needs. We use multiple sources of data because each type of assessment has a unique purpose and use.

Purpose	Use
The purpose of an assessment includes the type(s) of information we can gather and how often it is collected.	Results from each type of assessment have a specific use, or interpretation, in terms of the questions that can be answered about students' learning.



Balanced Assessment System



NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOLS



We are on a relentless pursuit to become the

FASTEST IMPROVING

school district in the state of Georgia – organized and led by a

HIGHLY SKILLED TEACHER & LEADER WORKFORCE

working tirelessly

on behalf of children for the benefit of our community

and **PRODUCING BREAKTHROUGH RESULTS**

ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITIES

NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOLS