Milestone Assessments
Frequently Asked Questions

Overview

What is the purpose of the Milestones Program?

Milestones give more frequent looks at a student's learning progress in the key areas of Math and Reading Comprehension, enabling teachers to identify in real time areas where students need more work. For schools that do CTP testing in the spring, the fall Milestone Benchmark is especially useful to assess where students are at the beginning of the year, while the winter Milestone shows the degree of progress made. For schools that do CTP testing in the fall, a winter and spring Milestone yield an understanding of student progress across the year, as well as outcomes at the end of the year.

What grades and subjects do Milestone assessments cover?

Milestones cover the Mathematics and Reading Comprehension subtests of the CTP, and are available online for students in Grades 3-8, based on feedback from ERB member schools. Each subject-area module is delivered in a single 45-minute session.

Will the Milestone assessments link or align with the CTPs?

The Milestone assessments evaluate student skills and knowledge in the same academic domains as the CTP. Likewise, Milestone assessment scores are reported on the same CTP vertical score scale that is familiar to our members, allowing for easy tracking and comparison.

What is the cost per student for administration of the reading comprehension and math Milestone Assessments?

For schools that currently administer CTP, a package of two Milestone Assessments (including both subject subtests) costs $10 per student. For schools that do not currently administer CTP, the two Milestone package costs $12 per student.

Administration and Reporting

What reports will be available for Milestones data?

ERB's new 360 Access Portal, available August 2020, will enable educators to set up rosters of students (e.g. a class, a group of advisory peers, or any other group of interest) and examine their CTP and Milestones test results, current and historical, on four different reports. Those report options are: (1) Achievement (examining progress over time); (2) Performance (student scores relative to selected norm groups); (3) Standards Mastery (standards and item-level performance); and (4) Completion (summarizes how many students per group rostered have been tested). Users will also be able to view individual student profiles, with each student's testing records, in addition to group-level analyses.

Our school was not able to administer the CTP this spring as planned. Could a fall Milestone help us bridge the gap in test scores?

Yes! A fall and/or winter Milestone would provide the data to fill that gap leading up to your next spring CTP administration.

Can Milestone Assessments be administered to students at home if there is ever a need for remote education in the future?

Yes. Just like the CTP, Milestone Assessments can be delivered to students remotely at home on Zoom or similar software with a school-supplied proctor. Students can also be tested in class at different times to accommodate the needs and realities of each school and classroom.

Can schools customize their testing configurations with Milestones? For example, CTP 5 in the fall, then a milestone in the Spring? (Skipping Winter)?

Yes! Schools can give one or two Milestones in addition to their regular CTP in whichever testing seasons make the most sense for them. Flexible administration options include:

Fall	Winter	Spring
CTP	Milestone	Milestone
Milestone	Milestone	CTP
Milestone*	Milestone*	Milestone*
CTP	—	—
—	—	CTP

*Note that the middle configuration of three Milestone Assessments will not be available until the 2021-2022 school year.

Could schools use Milestones with individual students for admissions purposes to determine if incoming students are on-level with our current students?

You could use Milestones for students once they are enrolled at your school to have data comparable to existing students, including for placing students in the right courses. Assessing incoming students early certainly could certainly help you understand what skills they are bringing. Because Milestones is an achievement test, however, we do not recommend using a single Milestone Assessment to make admissions decisions.

For admissions purposes, we recommend that schools use our Independent School Entrance Exam (ISEE).

Do classes have to take Milestones Assessments together, or can they be tested individually and in small groups? Can we do make-ups where necessary?

The test is given just like CTP, so Students do not have to test as a group and make-up tests can be scheduled. Educators would need to create separate test administration rosters for each group of test takers.

What devices are supported for Milestones?

The list of supported devices is the same as for CTP Online. Please visit the Help and Resources section of the CTP Portal for more details. Note that iPads are not supported for remote, at-home CTP or Milestones testing, due to a lack of compatibility between the iPad testing software and videoconferencing applications.

Additional Details

What accommodations are available for students taking Milestone Assessments?

All accommodations available for CTP are available for Milestones, including extended time.

Is there an auditory delivery (text to speech) option for the reading comprehension section?

There is not currently a text-to-speech option, but we are looking into that as well as other accommodations options for future updates.

We usually administer the CTP in the fall, but it doesn't really make sense to do that this year. The Milestone looks like a good instrument, but it will throw us "off" with our testing pattern. Do you have ideas on how to get "back on track" later?

Please contact your Member Services Director to discuss concerns specific to your school. However, we do not recommend switching testing seasons for several reasons. If you already test CTP in the Fall, you will get that early check-in with students in a robust way with CTP, and then can use Milestones in the winter and spring to ensure students stay on track and exhibit relative expected growth.

We typically test CTP on paper, but plan to do the Milestones in fall because we had to forgo spring testing. What should we be thinking about concerning the transition to a computer-based test?

The Help & Resources area of the CTP Portal has a CTP Online area with all of the information you will need. You can also reach out to CTP Operations or your Member Services Director for additional information. There are step-by-step resources available to guide you through online testing, and many schools are testing online for the first time this spring without issue.

Are the Reading and Mathematics subtests tied to any particular standards, such as Fountas and Pinnell for reading, or Common Core for math?

As with CTP, the content strands and learning standards for Milestones align with standards promulgated by the National Council of Teachers of English, International Literacy Association, and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Principles and Standards. In addition, although not designed to be aligned to Common Core State Standards, an independent review of both Mathematics and Reading Comprehension items has demonstrated that CTP and Milestones test content has strong alignment with the Common Core Standards.

Will there be a "language" category to measure writing and grammar in the Milestones program?

Milestones Assessments are currently focused on Reading and Mathematics, but ERB is considering adding other subtests down the road.

If the assessments are proctored online, how do we monitor to ensure that the students are actually taking the test, and not the parents?

For the CTP and Milestones to be administered at home, students must be monitored by video webcam during the testing. Furthermore, ERB provides schools with documentation which parents must sign before being allowed to do virtually proctored testing. Additional information is available in the Help & Resources area of the CTP Portal.

Will we be able to tell whether students tested on campus or remotely?

Score reports will not show whether students tested remotely or in school—it is ERB's expectation that any remote CTP or Milestones testing is done with the express approval of the school and that the sessions are proctored by school staff to ensure test validity. Please contact your Member Services Director for suggestions specific to your school.

Are norm groups determined by peers who take the test by test season, or by peers taking the same test level across test seasons?

As with the CTP, students taking Milestones will be compared against a "rolling norm" derived from peers who took the test in the same testing season (e.g., Fall, Winter, Spring) over the prior 3 years.

Given that the norms and standards from CTP are in drawn from two testing seasons versus three for the Milestones, how will the norms for Milestone be mapped onto those?

The fall and spring Milestones map neatly to the fall and spring CTP norms. The winter Milestone, which consists of a combination of fall and spring test items, will splice the data to pull from both sets of norms. In the future, with winter-specific data, we will create winter-only norms.

Does the Milestones program meet states' testing criteria or is that just the CTP?

Please reach out your Member Service Director if you would like Milestones to be considered for your state's list.