

Alternative Assessment

Grade 5-Reading

The Christina School District has chosen a combination of assessments to use for the alternative assessment application for grade 5 in reading. Teachers will use these assessments to verify that a child has met the requirements of the state standards for grade 5.

Criteria: Documentation for consideration for the Alternative Assessment Application must include the following:

- **Harcourt Brace Unit Holistic Reading Assessments for grade five reading series (used in 4 buildings) or Houghton-Mifflin End of the Unit Theme Tests for grade five reading series (used in 2 buildings).**
- OR
- **Houghton Mifflin Alternative Theme Test designed by CSD**
- AND
- **Jerry Johns Basic Reading Inventory or the Gates-MacGinitie Reading Test**

- A. **Harcourt Brace Unit Holistic Reading Assessment** have been developed by senior author, Roger C. Farr and copyrighted by Harcourt Brace and Company. These tests assess reading strategies taught in each of the six units in the series. The tests assess vocabulary and comprehension using multiple choice questions that address standards 2,3,4 and a text based response that addresses standards 1,2,3,4.

Performance required: a score of 13 or better for each test on the multiple-choice responses. a score of 2 or better on each of the test-based responses. (a three-point rubric is used for scoring the test-based responses).

State Standards: 1,2,3,4

- B. **Houghton Mifflin End of the Unit Theme Tests** have been written by Sheila Valencia. The program was designed by Kirchoff/Wohlbert, Inc. and copyrighted in 1996 by Houghton Mifflin Company. These tests assess reading strategies taught in each of the six themes in the series. They contain a variety of reading questions such as multiple choice addressing standards 2,3,4, short answer addressing standards 1,2,3,4, extended response addressing standards 1,2,3,4, and a text-based response addressing standards 1,2,3,4

Performance required: Minimum total score of 3 or better

State Standards: 1,2,3,4

C. **Houghton Mifflin Theme Test (adapted by the Christina School District):**

The theme test was rewritten to better match the format of the DSTP and the State Standards. Teachers and administrators did adaptation from the Christina District under the supervision and collaboration with the University of Delaware and Dr. Carol Vukelich. All items were field tested, rewritten, and field-tested again when needed. Questions 1-4 are multiple-choice addressing standards 2,3,4, questions 5-7 are short answer at the interpreting level addressing standards 1,2,3,4, and question 8 is text based addressing standards 1,2,3,4.

Performance required: Minimum total score of 3 or better
State Standards: 1,2,3,4

- D. **Individual Reading Inventory:** An informal reading test that is given individually to a student to help determine that student's independent, instructional, and frustration level. It is made up of grade level word lists and grade level story passages. Each story passage is followed by comprehension questions, which determines how well the student understands the story. The types of questions are: determining the topic, understanding the facts, making inferences, evaluation of the story, and understanding vocabulary. Three selections are included; two narrative passages and one expository passage from which to choose.

Performance required: Instructional level of 6 in word recognition in context and oral reading comprehension in a minimum of one of the three selections.
State Standards: 2,3, and 4

- E. **Gates-MacGinitie's Reading Test** published by Riverside Publishing Company. A nationally normed standardized test using multiple-choice questions to assess vocabulary and comprehension.

Performance required: Grade equivalency score of grade 6
State Standards: 2,3,4

Alternative Assessments *Frequently Asked Questions*

1. What is the difference between theme tests and alternative assessments?

Each grade has two theme tests that mirror the DSTP format. It is highly recommended that teachers give these theme tests so that students have experience taking DSTP-type tests.

The two theme tests for fifth grade *Stealing Home* and *Galveston* are part of the fifth grade alternative assessment. Fifth grade teachers may choose to give these prior to the fifth grade spring DSTP test date as preparation for the test. If teachers use *Stealing Home* or *Galveston* theme tests as the alternative assessment, they may not use it as a teaching tool. However the other theme test not used as an alternative assessment may be used as a teaching tool. Teachers should save the results as they may be used for an alternative assessment should the student fail the DSTP twice.

