

PRoPL Frequently Asked Questions for Educators

1. What type of assessment is PRoPL and why are we administering it to our students?

PRoPL is an interim assessment, which is an assessment typically given three times per year to understand how students are performing relative to their end of year college and career readiness goals. PRoPL provides information about which students and groups of students need extra support, as well as where the school or district may want to focus resources, such as paraprofessional staff or budget for professional development or supplemental curriculum.

2. How long does PRoPL take?

Most students take about 30 minutes to complete a PRoPL assessment. However, there is no time limit, should students need additional time.

3. What grade levels and content areas does PRoPL measure?

PRoPL may be administered to students in grades K-HS reading and math. In the future, PRoPL will be available for writing, science, and social studies.

4. Why can't I see which individual academic standards my students have mastered?

PRoPL is an interim assessment, meant to be a short “check in” on student progress across the full range of academic standards for a given grade. To provide a reliable score of standards mastery for each academic standard, PRoPL would need to be extremely long, which would take students much more time to complete. PRoPL does provide score results by reporting category. Educators can compare how students are performing by reporting category to understand areas of strength and those that need additional support.

5. What type of test is PRoPL?

For K-2 and high school, PRoPL is “fixed,” meaning each student sees the same test questions in the same sequence for that grade and subject. For grades 3-8, PRoPL is “adaptive,” meaning the test adapts to the student's ability level. Students answering more test questions correctly will receive harder items. Students answering more test questions incorrectly will see easier items. Because grades 3-8 are adaptive, students will not be able to go back to previously answered questions, with the exception of test questions within a passage, as part of a passage set on the reading assessments.

6. When will I get test results?

Test results will be available immediately in ADAM after a student submits their test.

7. What types of questions does PRoPL answer?

PRoPL provides information to questions, such as the following, for school and district leaders and teachers.

School and District Leaders	Teachers
Which groups of students are performing well and which need additional support?	Which individual students and groups of students are performing well and which need additional support?
Are there areas where teachers could use additional support, such as professional development?	Are there opportunities to differentiate instruction by scaffolding?
Should budget be allocated towards tutoring or intervention?	Are there students who should be screened as part of the district's Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) framework?
What can we learn from the cohorts of students who are performing well?	Are there opportunities to provide enrichment to students to keep them engaged?
What can we learn about how curriculum is being implemented across the district or school?	Should I make changes in my pacing of instruction?
Are the interventions or supports in place improving student learning?	How does this data compare to my formative assessment results?

8. Should I include PRoPL results in my parent/teacher conferences and discussions?

PRoPL supports healthy discussions with families about their child's learning by providing information on how students are performing overall within reading and math, as well as areas of strengths and needs for additional support. Because PRoPL is also a growth measure, teachers can discuss with families how much students have improved from fall to winter and winter to spring.

9. How is PRoPL different from the other assessments we administer?

PRoPL is unique in that it has been developed by Pearson content specialists with decades of experience creating test questions for high-stakes summative assessments and the same process used on those tests has been followed for PRoPL, making it highly valid and reliable. PRoPL is also administered on the same delivery system that many states use for their summative assessment.

10. Is PRoPL available in paper?

Currently, PRoPL is only available online.

11. What do the numbers mean in the Reporting Category Profile section of the Individual Student Report?

The Reporting Category Profile is the probability of the number of items a student would answer correctly out of 100 for a given reporting category. For example, a 0.40 RCP means that if a student saw 100 items, they would likely respond correctly to 40 items. Reporting categories with relatively higher numbers indicate areas of strengths while reporting categories with relatively lower numbers indicate areas for which students may need additional support.

12. What accommodations are available for PRoPL?

- Text to Speech
- Spanish for math grades 3-8
- Human audio support in Math and Reading for Kindergarten and First Grade

13. What is required for the Spanish math accommodation in PRoPL?

Spanish voice must be installed to use the Dynamic Text to Speech accommodation when administering Spanish math tests for grades 3-8.

Spanish tests for grades K-2 and High School are currently not supported. Proctors should provide translated read-alouds for any students needing Spanish.