



## DC Transcend Interim Assessment Pilot

### Frequently Asked Questions

For additional information, please visit the Pearson Transcend Integrated Assessment System page at the following link:

<https://www.pearsonassessments.com/large-scale-assessments/district-assessment/transcend.html>

**1. *What grades/subjects does Transcend cover?***

Transcend assessments are currently delivered in Grades 3-8 for both ELA (reading) and Mathematics.

**2. *How many times per year is it administered?***

Transcend interim assessments are administered 3 times yearly.

**3. *What platform is Transcend delivered in?***

Transcend assessments are delivered in PearsonAccess<sup>next</sup> and TestNav – the same platforms used to deliver DC PARCC (ELA and Math) and DC Science assessments. This provides students and educators with uniformity and familiarity with the platform while reducing the training learning curve of introducing a new platform.

**4. *How long are the Transcend assessments?***

Transcend computer adaptive assessments take approximately 45-60 minutes to complete.

**5. *What accommodations/accessibility features are available?***

All tools and manipulatives students already use on summative assessments are available for use in the Transcend interim assessments.

Most accommodations and accessibility features used on the summative assessments are available on the Transcend interim assessments such as Answer Masking, Color Contrast, Line Reader, Magnifier, Magnification, Pop-up Glossary, Text-to-Speech (TTS), and Spanish Transadaptation (math only).

**6. *How are the standards covered on each interim determined?***

Transcend's Intelligent Test Blueprint (ITB) tool allows for locally built fully customized tests directly from local scope and sequence documents. Students are only tested on standards selected via the ITB for the assessments built and delivered to your school. The ITB selects the right number of items per standard to support all reporting claims. Finally, Transcend incorporates a cumulative framework design which means that standards selected on previous interims can be assessed on future interims.



**7. How is performance reported? What do reports look like? Are there samples (specifically seeing what is available for standards analysis)? Can we see sample data reports to help understand what training and PD teachers will need to make sense of them?**

Transcend provides the following reports:

- **Student reports** - provides students with an overall scale score, performance level, and scale score by domain. Within year scores on the interims illustrate performance across each interim assessment. A student item mapping report illustrates the alignment of the item to the standard, the item order the student was administered each item, the difficulty of the item, and if the student got the item correct or not. These variables can be sorted for educators to review.
- **Session Roster reports** – provides teachers with the performance level, overall scale score and scale score by domain for all students in a test session.
- **Class summary reports** – provides teachers with a summary view of class performance
- **School and district overview reports** – provides educators and administrators with a dashboard view of district/school performance. Performance level benchmarks provide prediction of how students are expected to perform on the summative assessment.

Sample reports are available for viewing at the following link: [Transcend Sample Reports](#). Additional training to interpret and use reports will be provided in fall 2022.

**8. Is there PD available to help LEAs/schools understand Transcend and how to use the data? Can we get a demo? What and when will there be training on the Transcend platform for schools in the program?**

Training on how to use the ITB and how to prepare for administration will be provided by Pearson in September 2022. Training on how to access and interpret reports will be provided in October.

Access to the demo and presentation to LEAs recording from December 17, 2021 is available at the following link: [Dec. 2021 Transcend Demo](#)

**9. How do I access Transcend sample items/practice tests? Is there any way that we can try out the adaptive nature of the test?**

Practice tests with sample items are available at the following link:

<https://www.pearsonassessments.com/large-scale-assessments/district-assessment/transcend.html>

Due to the computer adaptive nature of the assessment, an adaptive practice assessment is unavailable.

**10. Can an explanation be provided for the adaptive nature of the assessment and the levels of rigor for test questions? Additionally, how to think about it when ELA/Math summative assessments are not adaptive. One of our stakeholders raised a concern about students only ever seeing easier questions on Transcend interims, then being surprised by the level of difficulty on ELA/Math Summative Assessments.**



As a student progresses through the test, the CAT algorithm will deliver statistically easier or statistically harder items (within grade-level) based on the student's responses. Students may have more than one chance to work on items from the same standard, but with different difficulty levels as they progress from Interim 1 to Interim 3.

The purpose of the adaptive interim assessment is to understand at a more precise level the student's math and reading levels and uses the difficulty of the items to determine a scale score. An adaptive assessment administers items based on how well students are performing on the assessment and every item administered is geared to provide information on what the students know and what they can do. Therefore, the items each student sees may be easy items in general, but for the student, they are not easy. Using an adaptive test uses the difficulty level of the item to provide a score. Therefore, if a student is receiving easy items, their score scale will be lower and will signal to the teacher that the student may be struggling to understand certain subject domains or instruction. Adaptive interim assessments will provide the teachers with information regarding the student performance so they will have the ability to adjust instructional lesson plans and instruction for the student(s) in time for a "harder" summative assessment.

**11. *How can we monitor students during and after testing so we can see who is complete and who has yet to test?***

Test administrators will be able to use the dashboards and students in session screens within PearsonAccess<sup>next</sup> to monitor student test progress.

**12. *What is the turnaround time between completing the test and seeing data reports?***

Transcend reports have a quick turnaround. Transcend uses online dynamic reports to allow educators to sort, filter, and drill into performance data to make meaningful decisions to inform instruction.

Reports will be available within 24 hours upon the completion of testing.

**13. *Does the program come with a bank of test items teachers can use for assessment or classroom tasks?***

No, Transcend does not provide an item bank that can be used for instruction, or classroom assessment.

**14. *How do LEAs get in contact with Pearson/representatives from Transcend?***

LEAs will be able to contact Jeff Heathman ([jeff.heathman@pearson.com](mailto:jeff.heathman@pearson.com)) and Kourtney Mikesell ([kourtney.mikesell@pearson.com](mailto:kourtney.mikesell@pearson.com)) and we can direct the questions to the appropriate person. Any questions regarding the actual administration will be directed to customer support.

**15. *Will there be additional trainings offered to cover report interpretation from Transcend?***

Yes, There will be two additional trainings provided that will cover how to interpret Transcend reports. The first training will take place on Monday, October 17, 2022 from 1-2pm EST. The second training will take place on Monday, November 14, 2022 from 12-1pm EST. These two trainings will be very similar, and we hope that you will attend the one that you will have active reports to review. You can attend one or both.