



# BIE Benchmark Assessments

January 13, 2026



# Agenda



**Science benchmark assessments**



**Why use science benchmark assessments?**



**Science benchmark form design**



**Testing time, testing mode, and scoring**



**Questions?**

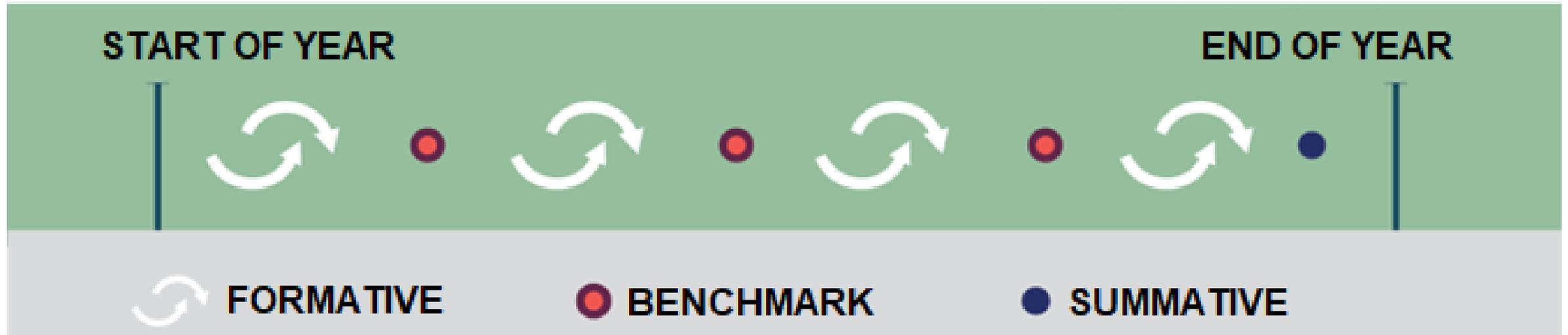
# Science benchmark assessments

- BIE's *optional* interim assessment for science
- Administered periodically now through March 6<sup>th</sup>
- Often used at the end of a grading period or unit of instruction
- Measure students' proficiency with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)



# Science benchmark assessments (cont'd)

- Identify students' learning gaps of science content and skills while learning is still taking place and interventions can be made
- Benchmark assessments are part of the BIE's comprehensive assessment program.



# Why use science benchmark assessments?

- Quick and easy way to provide key checkpoints on students' progress toward end-of-year learning goals and standards mastery
- The science benchmark assessment items are similar in format to items on the end-of-year summative assessment.
  - Teachers can **PICK AND CHOOSE** which test forms (and which standards) to assign.
  - Provides **EXCELLENT** practice in the classroom setting as the item types in the benchmark forms are also included in the summative end-of-year science assessment.



# Form design & administration - General

- Each form is composed of two clusters and two 4-point open-ended items.
- No set administration sequence or timing between now and March 6<sup>th</sup>.



# Form design & administration - General



- Forms should be administered at the time that best aligns with the specific content being covered in the classroom.
- Testing is not restricted to only those students in the summative testing grades of 5, 8, and 11, and there are no restrictions on the grade at which a particular form may be administered.

# Form design – Grades 3, 4, 5

- 4 forms each for grade 3, grade 4, and grade 5

Grade 3 NGSS PE	Form Number
3-PS2-1	1
3-PS2-2	1
3-PS2-3	1
3-PS2-4	1
3-LS1-1	3
3-LS2-1	2
3-LS3-1	3
3-LS3-2	3
3-LS4-1	2
3-LS4-2	3
3-LS4-3	2
3-LS4-4	2
3-ESS2-1	4
3-ESS2-2	4
3-ESS2-1	4
3-ESS2-2	4
3-ESS3-1	4

Grade 4 NGSS PE	Form Number
4-PS3-1	1
4-PS3-2	1
4-PS3-3	1
4-PS3-4	
4-PS4-1	2
4-PS4-2	3
4-PS4-3	2
4-LS1-1	3
4-LS1-2	3
4-ESS1-1	4
4-ESS2-1	4
4-ESS2-2	4
4-ESS3-1	
4-ESS3-2	4

Grade 5 NGSS PE	Form Number
5-PS1-1	1
5-PS1-2	1
5-PS1-3	1
5-PS1-4	1
5-PS2-1	4
5-PS3-1	2
5-LS1-1	2
5-LS2-1	2
5-ESS1-1	4
5-ESS1-2	4
5-ESS2-1	3
5-ESS2-2	3
5-ESS3-1	3
3-5-ETS1-1	
3-5-ETS1-2	
3-5-ETS1-3	4

# Form design – Middle school

- 12 forms for middle school grades 6-8

Middle School NGSS PE	Form Number
MS-PS1-1	6, 12
MS-PS1-2	6
MS-PS1-3	6
MS-PS1-4	7, 12
MS-PS1-5	6, 7
MS-PS1-6	7
MS-PS2-1	1
MS-PS2-2	1
MS-PS2-3	11
MS-PS2-4	2, 11
MS-PS2-5	11
MS-PS3-1	1, 11
MS-PS3-2	1, 11
MS-PS3-3	7, 12
MS-PS3-4	7, 12
MS-PS3-5	1
MS-PS4-1	4, 11
MS-PS4-2	4
MS-PS4-3	4

Middle School NGSS PE	Form Number
MS-LS1-1	9
MS-LS1-2	9
MS-LS1-3	9
MS-LS1-4	9
MS-LS1-5	9
MS-LS1-6	8, 9
MS-LS1-7	6
MS-LS1-8	4
MS-LS2-1	8
MS-LS2-2	8
MS-LS2-3	8
MS-LS2-4	8
MS-LS2-5	8
MS-LS3-1	12
MS-LS3-2	12
MS-LS4-1	3
MS-LS4-2	3
MS-LS4-3	3
MS-LS4-4	3
MS-LS4-5	3
MS-LS4-6	3

Middle School NGSS PE	Form Number
MS-ESS1-1	2
MS-ESS1-2	2
MS-ESS1-3	2
MS-ESS1-4	
MS-ESS2-1	10
MS-ESS2-2	10
MS-ESS2-3	10
MS-ESS2-4	10
MS-ESS2-5	10
MS-ESS2-6	10
MS-ESS3-1	5
MS-ESS3-2	5
MS-ESS3-3	5
MS-ESS3-4	5
MS-ESS3-5	5

Middle School NGSS PE	Form Number
MS-ETS1-1	1
MS-ETS1-2	4, 8
MS-ETS1-3	1
MS-ETS1-4	7

# Form design – High school

- 12 forms for high school grades 9-12

High School NGSS PE	Form Number
HS-PS1-1	5
HS-PS1-2	5
HS-PS1-3	5
HS-PS1-4	5
HS-PS1-5	5
HS-PS1-6	5
HS-PS1-7	5
HS-PS1-8	
HS-PS2-1	6
HS-PS2-2	6
HS-PS2-3	6
HS-PS2-4	6
HS-PS2-5	6
HS-PS2-6	6
HS-PS3-1	7
HS-PS3-2	7
HS-PS3-3	7
HS-PS3-4	7
HS-PS3-5	7
HS-PS4-1	8
HS-PS4-2	8
HS-PS4-3	8
HS-PS4-4	8
HS-PS4-5	8

High School NGSS PE	Form Number
HS-LS1-1	1
HS-LS1-2	1
HS-LS1-3	1
HS-LS1-4	3
HS-LS1-5	1
HS-LS1-6	1
HS-LS1-7	1
HS-LS2-1	2
HS-LS2-2	2
HS-LS2-3	1
HS-LS2-4	2
HS-LS2-5	
HS-LS2-6	2
HS-LS2-7	2
HS-LS2-8	2
HS-LS3-1	3
HS-LS3-2	3
HS-LS3-3	3
HS-LS4-1	4
HS-LS4-2	4
HS-LS4-3	4
HS-LS4-4	4
HS-LS4-5	4
HS-LS4-6	4

High School NGSS PE	Form Number
HS-ESS1-1	9
HS-ESS1-2	9
HS-ESS1-3	9, 10
HS-ESS1-4	9
HS-ESS1-5	10
HS-ESS1-6	9
HS-ESS2-1	10
HS-ESS2-2	10
HS-ESS2-3	10
HS-ESS2-4	10
HS-ESS2-5	12
HS-ESS2-6	12
HS-ESS2-7	11
HS-ESS3-1	11
HS-ESS3-2	12
HS-ESS3-3	12
HS-ESS3-4	11
HS-ESS3-5	11
HS-ESS3-6	11, 12

High School NGSS PE	Form Number
HS-ETS1-1	
HS-ETS1-2	
HS-ETS1-3	8
HS-ETS1-4	

# Testing time, mode, and scoring

- Science Benchmarks are untimed, but each form is designed to be completed in approximately 45-50 minutes (1 class period).
- The test is divided into two sessions and could be administered across two class periods if needed or desired.
- Science Benchmark forms are available both online and for printing at BIE schools so that students can take benchmark assessments using the same testing mode they will use for the summative assessment.
- The online version is accessed through the same BIE Portal used for summative testing. Within this portal, there are also print-ready PDFs of each form available for printing.

# Questions?

**JILL.STEPANEK@COGNIA.ORG**

For support in scheduling students into testing sessions, refer to the guides on the Resources page of the BIE Science Help & Support site (<https://bie.onlinehelp.cognia.org/resources/>).

