

Blueprint Summary Table

MCPS Benchmark Assessments

Grade 3: Reading

2016-17

MCPS Benchmark tests are designed to align with the MCPS SOL benchmark guide. However, it is important to remember that standards and text forms from previous years are subsumed. They, therefore, may be assessed on a Grade 3 Benchmark.

Teachers should be aware that the Grade 3 Assessment includes Grade 2 benchmarked standards and may include previously tested 3rd grade standards. All Reading Benchmark documents are available on the Language Arts website.

In general, test items assess word analysis strategies, use of word reference resources, and comprehension of printed materials, including fiction, nonfiction, functional texts, and poetry.

The number of passages and items increase across testing periods in order to build student stamina and establish realistic expectations for the SOL testing experience.

Vocabulary used in passages and questions may be drawn from grade-level content areas.

MCPS Benchmark Test	Number of Passages	Possible Genre Options for Passages**	Possible Options for 2010 SOL*	Number of Items
Benchmark 1 2016-2017 Testing Window: Nov 1 -18	3 Short passages	Fiction (Realistic) Functional Text (menus, directions, recipes, flyers, etc.) Informational Article	3.3 a, b 3.4 a, c, d 3.5 a, b, c, d, e, f, h 3.6 b, c, d, f 3.7 a excluding thesaurus 3.10 h only contractions	25
Benchmark 2 2016-2017 Testing Window: March 1 - 17	4 Standard-length passages	Traditional Tale (Trickster Tale, Myth, Fable, Fairy Tale, Legend) Biography/ Autobiography*** Poetry*** Previous Options (Functional Text, Informational Article, Realistic Fiction) Paired Text****	3.3 a, b 3.4 a, b, c, d, g 3.5 a, b, c, d, e, f, h, i, j 3.6 a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h 3.7 a, b 3.10 e, h	35
Spring SOL Test	4-5	All Options Listed Above	All 2nd-3rd Grade SOL items listed on the DOE Blueprint	42

* For content of specific standards, refer to Benchmark Guide for 2010 Standards

** If a class has not studied a specific genre or standard prior to assessment, consider the Benchmark as a pretest and use results to guide instruction.

*** These genre are taught second semester. Consider the Benchmark items as a pretest.

**** The SOL Test may pair texts across genre and ask students questions related to both selections.