

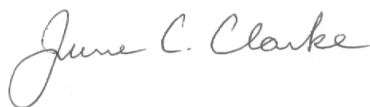
Dear Parents/Guardians:

In this section of our website you will find a memorandum from NYSED titled *Assessment Administration in Conjunction with Annual Professional Performance Reviews (APPR's)* which all school districts are required to post. This memo describes what districts can and cannot use to derive the APPR scores for our teachers. This law was enacted to minimize the amount of standardized testing we give our students specifically related to APPR. To summarize, the law states that school districts cannot use more than 1% of instructional time to administer tests that are specifically targeted for APPR purposes. Assessments that are not counted in these minutes include: any assessment used for diagnostic or formative purposes, performance based assessments (e.g. creating a piece of artwork, playing a piece of music for a score or running the mile in P.E., etc.), final exams, Regents Exams and NYSED Assessments Grades 3-8.

All students in grades K-6 in Canastota are given either DIBELS or AIMSweb assessments at least three times a year as per the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education of NYS to support the Response to Intervention system. These assessments help teachers and principals monitor the progress of students to initially identify students who are “at-risk” for academic failure, then to determine progress as we move through our curriculum throughout the year. However, they were also allowed to be used for APPR purposes when these laws were first enacted in 2012. So we use the results to help formulate the composite scores of some teachers. The Canastota Central School District had been using these assessment tools for several years before APPR came into existence in its current form. This same principle holds true with the quarterly assessments that all teachers administer to monitor students’ progress and inform their instruction. These assessments were developed many years ago as a best practice under Data Driven Instruction. The final exams that middle school and high school students have taken for many, many years are another example. Teachers use these assessments, among other classroom assessments, to monitor students’ progress. Regents Exams and the NYSED Assessment program for Grades 3-8 fall under these guidelines as well.

The Canastota Central School District has worked very hard to ensure that your child is not over tested with assessments that are not used for educational purposes. The overwhelming majority of assessments your child takes in school are helpful to parents, teachers, principals, and other administrators to deliver a quality program for all of our children. If you have any questions regarding the assessments that your child is being given do not hesitate to contact his/her teacher or principal. If you have any questions regarding APPR, or the Canastota Central School District’s APPR plan, please contact Mr. Jason Mitchell, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction at 697-2025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "June C. Clarke".

June C. Clarke
Superintendent of Schools