



PENNSYLVANIA FIREFLY AND CDT: HOW ARE THEY DIFFERENT?

When used together, the CDT and PA Firefly provide a comprehensive view of student learning to help teachers meet day-to-day goals as well as end-of-year targets.

PA Firefly Student Progress Indicators (Firefly) is a new, high-quality benchmark assessment option available in Pennsylvania schools to support student learning throughout the year. Firefly is fully aligned to Pennsylvania standards to reflect and measure the same student knowledge and skills measured by the summative end-of-year and end-of-course assessments. With the introduction of Firefly, Pennsylvania teachers may be wondering, how is Firefly different from the Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDT) we already use in the classroom?

The CDT and Firefly are not interchangeable: each has its own uses and purposes, and each provides unique benefits for students and educators. When used together, the CDT and Firefly provide a comprehensive view of student learning to help teachers meet day-to-day goals as well as end-of-year targets.

CLASSROOM DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS



WHAT DO THEY MEASURE?

- Provides diagnostic information to identify students' areas of need and strengths to build upon
- Allows administration of off-grade items to facilitate diagnoses
- Administers approximately equal number of items per diagnostic category for approximately equal level of precision
- Does not predict summative performance

- Measures progress toward end-of-year grade-level learning goals
- Focuses on on-grade level items to measure on-grade expectations
- Administers number of items to approximately match summative blueprints
- Predicts summative performance

WHAT QUESTIONS DO THEY ANSWER?

- How is my student performing today?
- What are the specific learning areas I need to focus on right now for my student?
- Is my student performing above or below their grade level?
- How is my student performing at a diagnostic category level?

- How is my student likely to perform at the end of the year?
- Is my student on track to meet our end-of-year grade-level goals?
- Is my student meeting the benchmarks expected in their current grade level?
- How is my student performing relative to the summative grade-level assessment?

WHAT ARE THE INTENDED USES?

Use the CDT to understand where your student is today.

- Gain a detailed, short-range view of student performance at a diagnostic category level
- Determine where to focus instruction to meet your day-to-day classroom learning goals

Use Pennsylvania Firefly to understand where your student is headed tomorrow.

- Gain a higher-level, long-range view of student performance at a benchmark level
- Determine where to focus support to meet your end-of-year grade-level learning goals

HOW ARE THEY THE SAME?

While PA Firefly and the CDT have different uses and purposes, they have two important things in common: both use the same test administration systems as the PSSA and Keystone Exams, providing a smooth and unified testing experience for students and teachers, and both are offered as FREE resources by the state, saving schools money and time.

