

# Blueprint Summary Table MCPS Benchmark Assessments Grade 8 Reading 2016-17

MCPS Benchmark tests are designed to align with the MCPS SOL benchmark guide which lists by 6-week grading period the Standards of Learning on which students should demonstrate proficiency. The options for passages and the content of the questions align with benchmark guide. The testing window for each benchmark test is given below.

Teachers should be aware that the Grade 8 benchmark assessments include question stems that students have experienced in grade 6 and 7. A benchmark assessment may also include previously tested 8<sup>th</sup> grade standards.

In general, test items assess word analysis strategies, use of word reference resources, and comprehension of fiction, nonfiction, functional text, and poetry, including print and digital informational materials.

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

MCPS Benchmark Test	Number of Passages	Possible Options for Passages**	Possible Options for SOL*	Number of Items
<b>First 9-Weeks</b>  2016-17 Testing Window: <b>October 3-21</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Functional</b> (flier, brochure, application)  <b>Narrative Nonfiction</b> (Biographical article/personal essay/journal entry/article)	<b>8.4 b, c, d</b>  <b>8.5 a, b, c, e, h, i, j, k, l</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Second &amp; Mid Third 9-Weeks</b>  2016-17 Testing Window: <b>February 1-17</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Informational Nonfiction</b> (encyclopedia, textbook, magazine)  <b>Narrative Poetry</b>  <b>Fiction</b> (Realistic, fantasy or historical including folk literature)  <b>Paired Text***</b>	<b>8.4 a, b, c</b>  <b>8.5 a, b, c, d, g, i, j, k, l</b>  <b>8.6 a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Spring SOL Test</b>  <b>Assessment Window</b>	<b>5-7</b>	<b>All options listed above</b>	All 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Reading SOL items as listed on the DOE Blueprint, including <b>8.4 e and 8.5 f</b>	<b>55</b>

\* For content of specific standards, refer to Benchmark Guide. (2015-16 Benchmark Tests will be based on 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.

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