

Assessment Evaluation Tool (AET)

The Assessment Evaluation Tool (AET) is a review tool to evaluate the alignment of grade or course-level assessment materials for alignment with the CCSS, including interim or benchmark assessments and classroom assessments. In addition, the AET can also be used to deepen a shared understanding of the criteria for CCSS-aligned assessments. There are separate AET tools for K-High School Mathematics and 3-12 English Language Arts/Literacy.

The AET should be used for:

- Informing decisions about purchasing assessment materials or item banks designed to address a grade or course;
- Evaluating previously purchased or developed assessment materials and item banks;
- Guiding the development or refinement of individual or sets of assessments in a district or school;
- Building the capacity of educators and content and assessment specialists to better understand what CCSS-aligned assessments look like; and,
- Informing publishers of the criteria that will be applied in the evaluation of proposals and final products.

a) Where to find online:

To view and download the AET, please visit:
www.achievethecore.org/materialsevaluationtoolkit

b) Who uses:

The AET is designed for use by educators and administrators responsible for developing, purchasing and/or evaluating sets of assessments and item banks. This includes content specialists, assessment specialists, administrators and educators at the school, district or state level.

c) Target materials:

The AET is designed to evaluate grade or course-level assessment materials for alignment with the CCSS, including interim or benchmark assessments and classroom assessments.

d) How to use

The AET is organized as follows:

1. *Non-Negotiables:* Materials must fully meet all of the relevant non-negotiables at each grade/course to be aligned to the CCSS.
2. *Indicators of Quality:* The indicators of quality are additional dimensions of alignment. Although the assessments may be aligned without meeting the indicators of quality, assessments that do reflect these indicators are better aligned. In the AET for English language arts/literacy, the indicators are incorporated directly into each metric and in the AET for mathematics the indicators are found in Section II.

For each non-negotiable, reviewers should make a determination about whether the materials under review have fully met the criterion based on the metrics provided. For all determinations, reviewers should record a justification to ensure that judgments and determinations are evidence based. Once all the relevant non-negotiables have been met, then (and only then) should reviewers evaluate materials based upon the Indicators of Quality.