

Curriculum and Assessment

Sigsbee Charter School offers a differentiated educational program, designed to meet the unique needs of each student. At Sigsbee, rather than simply assessing at the end of an instructional period, assessments are embedded into a teacher's practice and are used to drive instruction. Teachers use a variety of measures, and continually assess, to find out what their students already know, determine how and what they are learning, and establish what a student is ready to learn next.

Language Arts instruction is especially driven by a child's readiness. Teachers utilize several reading assessments, including DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment), FAIR (Florida Assessment In Reading), running records, and classroom observations, to determine a child's reading level, design appropriate instruction, and monitor progress. Additionally, a developmental word study assessment is used to establish appropriate spelling words and formative writing assessments are given several times throughout the school year to monitor writing progress over time.

Sigsbee Charter School has adopted the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's ***Go Math!*** program. In addition to teacher-created assessments, classroom teachers utilize the pre-assessments, progress monitoring, and post assessments provided by the math program. Problem solving strategies are further developed in our *Strategies Lab*, where children persevere with challenging puzzles and mathematically based visual-spatial activities to develop essential thinking skills.

Assessment is integrated into project-driven science and social studies units; at the end of an instructional unit, students are asked to apply their knowledge to a novel situation. These projects are correlated to Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and are assessed using teacher created rubrics. Additionally, Sigsbee students are expected to maintain a portfolio demonstrating their mastery of science and social studies benchmarks.

In the spring, Sigsbee students participate in standardized testing, which measures criterion-referenced achievement. Students in kindergarten through second grade take the Stanford Achievement Test while third through fifth graders partake in Florida's FCAT examination.

Parent/teacher conferences are formally held twice a year to inform and discuss students' progress. Parents/guardians are welcome to request additional conference as needed.