

Comments

In the space provided below, enter any comments that you have regarding the student assessed.

Kindergarten _____

1st Grade _____

2nd Grade _____

About the Assessment

The *Mississippi Mathematics Assessment Tool of Benchmark Understanding (MATH-U)* is a mathematics assessment that is developmentally appropriate to administer individually to students in kindergarten, first grade, and second grade. This observational and informal assessment is made up of child-centered, teacher-driven activities, and it is suggested that teachers administer the assessment as a pre-test/post-test. Given as a pre-test, it is used to provide critical decision-making information for the teacher and to prescribe interventions for students prior to the end-of-grade Mississippi Curriculum Test (MCT) in the second grade. Given as a post-test, it is used to monitor the effectiveness of instruction. **MATH-U** is provided by the Mississippi Department of Education to all public school districts. The test is not a standardized, large group test and will not be linked to the district or school level accreditation model.

The *Mississippi Mathematics Assessment Tool of Benchmark Understanding* assesses the five strands of mathematics from the *Mississippi Mathematics Framework 2000*. Each of the five content strands - Patterns/Algebraic Thinking, Data Analysis/Prediction, Measurement, Geometric Concepts, and Number Sense is presented in separate flip-charts that are colorful and inviting to young students. Manipulatives are used throughout the test providing a hands-on assessment that simulates the kind of hands-on instruction that is so vital to early instruction. **MATH-U** comes with a checklist that the teacher completes while administering the assessment which saves valuable time. Because the test is divided among five content strands, it may be administered in one or up to five sittings. This allows for the adaptability needed in assessing young students with varied attention spans. Schools and school districts have the flexibility to use this informal, diagnostic assessment to meet the needs of their students.

Before the Assessment

- Study administrator's manual.
- Become familiar with the checklist. (Duplicate as needed.)
- Determine strand(s) to be assessed.
- Gather manipulatives for each strand to be assessed.
- Prepare a place for the assessment. (Because flip charts are used, it is suggested that the student sit facing the administrator with adequate space to use the manipulatives.)

Note: Student identification labels may be used in the student biographical field if labels are provided by your school/district.