This glossary defines terms specific to and included in support documentation and ancillary materials for Cognia™ Assessments.

Content

Formative Item Sets: Cognia Formative Item Sets are designed to help teachers quickly gauge students' understanding of key concepts and skills that are emphasized by college and career readiness standards. The item sets support formative assessment practices and provide evidence of student understanding. Educators may administer the items as frequently as they like to engage students in the learning and quickly generate data that can be used to inform instruction.

- **Formative Assessments:** Cognia Formative Item Sets are available for online delivery to students as a program in the test delivery system.

- **Formative Content Library:** Cognia Formative Item Sets are available as downloadable PDF documents to be administered as a paper-pencil assessment to students in the classroom.

Interim Assessments: Cognia Interim Assessments are vertically articulated achievement tests that measure student knowledge and growth in reading, language usage, and mathematics across grades 3–8. These assessments include three equivalent and interchangeable forms per year and may be administered up to three times per school year (available for beginning of year, mid-year, and end-of year administrations). Interim Assessments are available for online delivery to students.

Student Test Administration and Delivery

504 Plan: A plan for a school to provide support and services (accommodations) for a student with a disability that enables the student to learn with their peers. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (United States federal law) has a broad definition of disabilities.

accommodations: Supports and services made available to individual students that allow them to demonstrate content area knowledge and skills on an assessment. Authorized accommodations do not alter the construct being measured, and therefore result in valid scores. Accommodations are intended to reduce or even eliminate the effects of a student's disability or English learner (EL) proficiency status.

administration: An administration is the set of assessments to be administered within a particular period of time (assessment window or test window). In Cognia Assessments, Administration also refers to the module in the online application that allows users to schedule test sessions, print student login information, and manage test progress and status.

assessment: A tool used to evaluate, measure, and document the academic readiness, learning progress, skill acquisition, or educational needs of students.

Individualized Education Program (IEP): A written plan for a student eligible for special education, guaranteeing that the student receives necessary support and services for individualized learning unique to their needs. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (United States federal law) has a limited number (13) of disabilities that qualify the student for specialized instruction.

password (student): The second part of the login credentials the student uses to access a test session. The password is unique to the student and changes for each test session assigned to the student.

proctor password: The credential assigned by the system that allows a test administrator (teacher or administrator) to enable testing for students with an "Allow Accessibility Mode" accommodation (permits students to use third-party tools while in the kiosk).

session access code: A unique code used by students to access a particular test session after logging in with their username and password. A single test may have multiple session access codes, because each section in a test has a different access code. The session access code is unique to the test session and not to the student. (Used only in Interim Assessments)

status: Used to indicate the progress of a student's test session. Status could be "not started," "in progress," or "finished."

test: A grade- and content-specific assessment. Specific tests are associated with a particular administration.

test delivery system: The internet browser-based or secure kiosk used to deliver assessments to students.

test section: A subset of questions that comprises a separate part of a test. Each section can be taken at different times by students as they progress through the test.

test session: A test that has been assigned to a particular class. A test session is considered a testing event. A test session may have multiple parts (sections) that can be taken at different times.

test window: A designated time period for students to take assessments.

username (student): The first part of the login credentials a student uses to access a test session. The username is unique to the student and provided in the student data upload. Students enter their usernames every time they log into the test delivery system.

Data and User Management

admin: A role typically given to district or school administrators who manage users, students, classes, and the delivery of the assessments for an organization.

class: A group that contains teachers (See "user," below) and students, making a connection between them for administration and reporting purposes. Test sessions are created for classes.

data management: The functionality in the online application that manages student accounts, accommodations, and classes.

organization: A group of users and students, structured to identify the hierarchy of districts and schools.

permissions: The ability to view or complete an action in the online application. Permissions are granted by role. [See the Roles and Permissions chart in the *Access and Permissions: User Guide*.]

role: A set of security permissions in the online application assigned to a user or specific organization (district or school), defining access to particular activities and data.

user management: The functionality in the Cognia Continuous Improvement Platform that manages user accounts and licensing per organization.

user: A role typically given at the school level to classroom teachers who manage their class and test sessions. The role is also given at the district level to technology staff who manage student test devices and site readiness.

Reporting

cross tabulation: A method to quantitatively analyze the relationship between multiple variables, showing how correlations change across groups and displaying patterns and trends within data.

csv: A file extension (.csv) that allows data to be saved in a tab-delimited text file (i.e., using commas to separate values). The files can then be imported into spreadsheet programs such as Microsoft® Excel® or Google Sheets™.

disaggregation: The process of breaking data down into parts in order to analyze and classify.

frequency distribution: A reporting calculation used to tell how often a student score is achieved in a group or subgroup. The frequency could be represented as a number or a percentage of the total.

growth: Student progress determined by evaluating current student performance against expected student performance (based on prior administration results within the current grade).

mean: A reporting calculation of an average of the student scores in a selected group or subgroup. The mean is calculated by adding up all the scores and dividing by the total number of scores.

PDF: A file extension (.pdf) that is typically read-only and available to view by all users without needing a specific application or operating system. Adobe® Acrobat® Reader is the default application for viewing PDF files.

projection: Prediction of student performance for the end of year interim assessment calculated using interim performance from the beginning or middle of the year interim assessment. The projection level indicates the likelihood that students will achieve proficiency on the EOY interim under current instruction and support.

range: A reporting calculation of the difference between the highest and lowest scores in a distribution (in a selected group or subgroup). The range is calculated by subtracting the lowest score from the highest.

Reporting: The module in the online application that allows users to generate, view, and export student reports.

scatter plot: A visual chart/graph using coordinates on horizontal and vertical axes to display values for and relationships (correlations) among multiple variables for a set of data.

standard deviation: A reporting calculation used to tell how the student scores (measurements) for a group or subgroup are spread out from the average (mean). Standard deviation is a useful index of variability. A low standard deviation means that most of the scores are close to the average. (More students are scoring similarly around the mean.) A high standard deviation means that the scores are more spread out. (More students are scoring toward the extremes.)