

LinkIt! FAQ

What is LinkIt!?

LinkIt is an assessment management and data analytics tool. The LinkIt technology platform is a suite of integrated web applications that consists of three core elements:

1. An assessment authoring platform & item banking tools;
2. An assessment delivery platform with online and offline capability; and
3. A Dashboard-style reporting platform with over ten distinctive reporting modules.

Why did the district purchase LinkIt!?

LinkIt was purchased in response to both the district's and teachers' need for a tool to easily manage and analyze data. It gives teachers and administrators access to valuable student data in a simple to use interface.

LinkIt allows teachers to easily identify a student's strengths and weaknesses, differentiate instruction, and provide tailored interventions. On a school level, this data is used by the counseling office, I&RS and CST teams to gain an accurate assessment picture of students. On a district level, this data is used to evaluate our programs and to adjust our curriculum accordingly.

The following data is available in LinkIt!: 2010-2014 NJASK, 2014 NJASK Growth Scores, Fall 2012-Spring 2015 MAP, 2011-2014 HSPA, 2012-2014 NJBCT, 2012-2015 AP, PARCC 2015, 2014 & 2015 PSAT, and various local assessments that were administered through LinkIt.

When did the district get LinkIt!?

After exploring several options, the districts piloted LinkIt in the Spring of 2015. Following a successful pilot and with growing interest, the district purchased LinkIt for the 2015-2016 school year. LinkIt was formally introduced to the district through the [September 2, 2015](#) edition of *The Focus*.

How can I use LinkIt!?

As explained above, teachers and administrators can use the data warehousing and analytics components of LinkIt to help improve student achievement.

Additionally, LinkIt can be used to deliver assessments. There are three options.

1. Teachers may create an assessment within LinkIt. Teachers can input their own items and/or use items in LinkIt's vast item bank.
2. Existing assessments can be uploaded into LinkIt. This service is provided by LinkIt and saves the teacher the time of recreating the assessment themselves. If a teacher would like to upload an assessment, contact your content-area supervisor.
3. LinkIt has developed their own "benchmark" tests. LinkIt has shown that these assessments are highly predictive of a student's performance on PARCC. The reports available from these tests are very rich, as all the questions have been linked to the standards, skills, and topics.

LinkIt benchmark tests are available in Math and ELA for grades 3-8, HS English I, II, and III, Algebra I and II, and Geometry. The district is exploring the use of these tests to gain a better understanding of the impact that our programs are having.

In addition to grading assessments instantly (except for open-ended questions), LinkIt provides easy access to Standard, Mastery, and Cluster reports, Item Analyzes, and can generate Student Reports.

Lastly, LinkIt has an expanding Learning Library that offers many learning resources. These resources range from worksheets to videos and can be used as interventions to help struggling learners.

Must all assessments given through LinkIt be graded?

No. As with any other assessment, it is up to the teacher if an assessment given through LinkIt is graded or not. In addition to summative assessments, such as unit tests, LinkIt can also be used to give diagnostic and formative assessments, which typically are not graded.

Do parents have access to the data in LinkIt?

No. Teachers may show parents data from LinkIt or print Student Reports, but parents do not have access to LinkIt.

Are Google Apps for Education (GAPE) and LinkIt! the same type of software?

No. GAPE and LinkIt are both excellent tools that can enhance instruction, but they are not the same. Each has a distinct purpose and there is very little, if any, overlap. GAPE provides an expansive array of productivity tools for teachers that help facilitate student-centered collaborative learning. Examples of available apps include Docs, Sheets, Slides, Forms, and Classroom. As explained above, LinkIt is an assessment management and data analytics tool.

What if I need help?

School data teams have been established in each building. It is their responsibility to help “roll out” LinkIt. They should be your first go-to if you have questions. If you don’t know who is on your school’s team, ask your principal. If you still have questions after speaking with a data team member, contact a content-area supervisor.

There are also “self-help” options available through embedded resources in LinkIt such as “cheat sheets” and video tutorials. Various school-level meetings have included LinkIt trainings and discussions. These will continue. The content-area supervisors have had several and will continue to hold “LinkIt Days”. This is where a supervisor is at a school and is available to answer questions. On January 22, 2016, 225 teachers will attend inservice training on LinkIt.

Will assessments given through LinkIt affect a teacher’s evaluation?

No! This was never even a thought, let alone a consideration. As explained above, LinkIt was purchased so administrators and teachers can easily use data to make programmatic and instructional decisions that ultimately increase student learning.