CollegeSpring
POTENTIAL MADE POSSIBLE

Diagnostic Test Windows

When are the best times to administer diagnostic tests in order to maximize student score improvement?

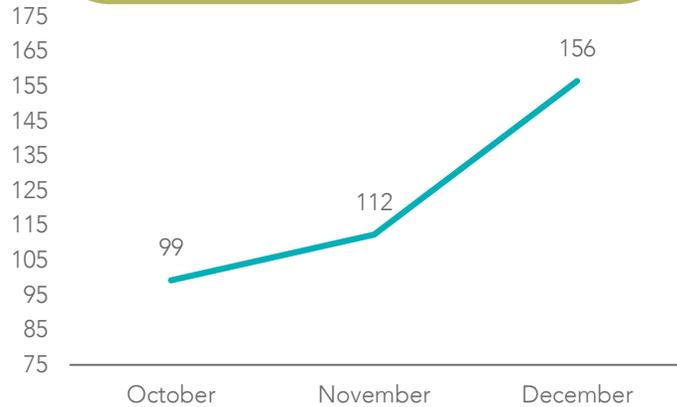Graph (Test 1): May 47, August 127, September 94, October 31, November -62
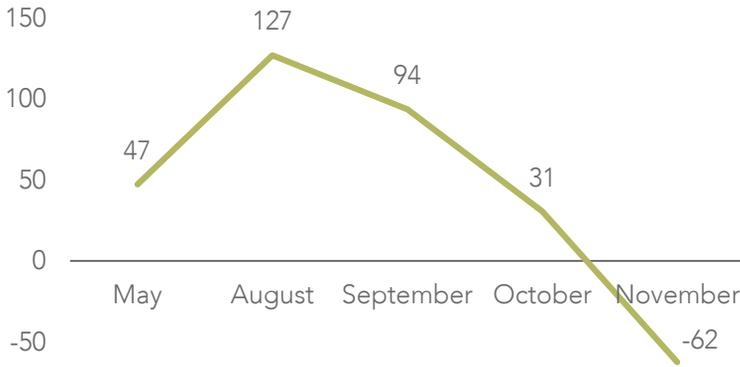
Test 1 Window
As seen in the graph on the left, the ideal test 1 window is in August. Likely, this is because test 1 testing at the beginning of the school year allows for the most growth from baseline in subsequent months but also keeps students engaged with their score growth.

Test 2 Window
As seen in the graph on the right, the ideal test 2 window is in December. Students who tested earlier in October or November did not have had as much time as those testing in December to benefit from further instruction. There were not many students who tested beyond December, so it is not possible to know if delaying testing even further would have been beneficial. Likely, the interference with the test 3 timing would not be worth the tradeoff.

Graph (Test 2): October 99, November 112, December 156

Graph (Test 3): December 146, January 163, February 172, March 172, April/May 156

Test 3 Window
As seen in the graph on the left, the ideal test 3 window is around February or March, though testing in January is acceptable, as well.

Test 4 Window
When accounting for the windows for tests 1 – 3, the test 4 window was not related to score improvement, indicating that scheduling test 4 is significantly more flexible than tests 1 – 3.

This report is based on testing dates for all students from AYP 2011-2012 through AYP 2013-2014. This report only references months during which more than 100 students completed a test. Each analysis accounts for the timing of the tests that came before it (e.g., analysis of test 3 timing accounts for the timing tests 1 and 2) and student baseline score.