"Summative" means any type of assessment that occurs after instruction for the purpose of demonstrating learning or achievement. Statewide accountability tests are summative tests—but so are classroom unit tests, mid-terms, and more.

Benchmark or Interim?
These terms—along with "periodic" and "through year"—are often confused. The major distinction is content coverage, which affects how they're used.

Benchmark tests cover only the material taught up to their point in time. Interim assessments usually cover the full year's standards.

Summative ≠ Accountability
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