

School Board Meeting:

May 8, 2017

Subject:

MAP Assessment Recommendation

Presenter:

Pam Miller, Director

Teaching & Learning

Jenny Wykle, Assessment Coordinator

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

Report only. Approval will be requested at the May 22, 2017 board meeting.

DESCRIPTION:

Historically, BHM Schools has administered a norm-referenced test to students across several grade levels for the purpose of gathering data to compare our student achievement to that of other schools nationwide as an indicator of our success. In addition, this norm-referenced data has served the purpose of program evaluation.

For many years, the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) was used, as was common in most school districts. As attention began to focus on reading and math, and as technology advancements occurred, BHM Schools shifted in the 2005-2006 school year from the ITBS to [Northwest Evaluation Association's](#) (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), as did many other districts.

After seven years with MAP, BHM Schools shifted again in the 2013-2014 school year to Scantron's Performance Series. At that time, NWEA's MAP assessment was not in alignment with Minnesota's academic standards and the teacher resources to access instructional levels of students were cumbersome.

During the 2015-2016 school year, significant technical problems occurred with Performance Series. After exhausting our problem-solving strategies with the Scantron Company and our district's tech staff, the decision was made to discontinue the Performance Series testing and initiate an Assessment Task Force to examine the district's options for a norm-referenced test in reading and math.

The Assessment Task Force met throughout the 2016-2017 school year, facilitated by Jenny Wykle, District Assessment Coordinator. The group explored options, examined other districts' assessment use, engaged in a pilot, and ultimately made a recommendation to re-engage in a partnership with NWEA to return to the use of MAP in reading and math in our district. The pilot testing of MAP was positive through the lens of technology use, teacher access, student ease of use, and the availability of data in the reports. The areas that had been of concern to the

district have been addressed in the current version of MAP.

The recommendation is for the district to adopt NWEA's MAP testing for use as our nationally norm-referenced test in reading and math, beginning in the 2017-2018 school year. Students in Grade 2 will be tested in fall and spring. Students in Grades 3-8 will be tested in the fall. The district will utilize fall-to-fall growth data in Grades 3-8 for program evaluation and national norm comparison. The MAP will also be used at Phoenix Learning Center with all students in fall and spring, as well as upon new student enrollment at any time during the year for initial course placement.

In terms of financial implications, the annual fee for the MAP adoption is within the district's testing budget already established in Teaching & Learning.

At the May 8th board workshop, Jenny Wykle will present details of the task force work, along with additional details of the MAP testing.

An approval for adoption of NWEA's MAP testing in reading and math will be requested at the May 22nd board meeting.