Memorandum

To: Mark Fredisdorf

From: Candy Kramer

Date: 3/12/2015

Re: STAR Assessment Information

In reference to the STAR assessments, I hope the information below is found helpful for future goal planning:

1. Looking ahead, as each STAR testing period passes, we will increasingly benefit from the system reports. Following our first testing period, each student has one data point per assessment. The data points vary greatly due to the nature of the computer adaptive test. According to the STAR Growth Targets (attached), Renaissance Learning does not recommend a Student Growth Percentile Growth Target number. They do suggest that schools examine the previous year's data as a baseline reference before determining the current year growth target. That being said, once we have our first year's worth of data points, we will be able to formulate a more precise target.

2. STAR does provide us with a "projected score" following one data point. This number is formulated by the system through the student's grade level and starting score. Through the norming pool research, 50% of the students at this student's level will achieve the amount of growth stated as the projection. Over time, we will have access to more longitudinal data reports. These will allow us to compare the same grades year to year or compare the same students over multiple years. We will also have access to our district trends and these reports will allow us to look back as many as five years. This might be where a future goal could be formulated. Common goals might include, "__% of the district students will meet or exceed their projected score from the fall testing session to the spring testing session" or "The amount of students performing at or above the national norm will increase from __% at the beginning of the year testing session to __% at the end of the year testing session." Following the first year of testing, we will have a more solid grasp of the students' abilities per their longitudinal data as well as the STAR assessment itself. We will be able to more clearly determine if a test should be deemed invalid or falls

       outside of a student's typical performance. Clear goals will be able to be set and attained.

3. STAR does provide Benchmark, Cut Score, and Growth Rate reports (attached). These provide guidelines that might be followed when attempting to predict a growth rate. The grids list students from the norming pool into percentiles as well as the necessary growth needed to maintain placement in that percentile throughout the school year. One observation from these charts is that as the percentile and grade levels increase, the amount of expected growth will decrease.