



MEMORANDUM

TO: BOE Education Committee

FROM: Dr. Barb Browning, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services
Margo Sickele, Director of Accountability and School Improvement

DATE: July 26, 2012

RE: Assessment Program Updates

The National Research Council (NRC) defines a quality assessment system as one that is (a) coherent, (b) comprehensive, and (c) continuous (NRC, 2001). Evidence is clear: teachers' ongoing use of assessment to guide and inform instruction—classroom formative assessment—can lead to statistically significant gains in student learning (Black & William, 1998).

A comprehensive balanced assessment system includes:

- State (Accountability)
- Interim/Benchmark (assessments that are directly linked to curriculum)
- Classroom
- Universal Screener (a short assessment that provides baseline data for goal-setting)

All should be aligned to state standards; each component is important and contributes to overall student achievement. In addition, Universal Screeners and Progress Monitoring Tools are a component of the state mandated Response to Intervention process all districts are required to use.

The Response to Intervention Committees reviewed assessment options and evaluated the assessments that were used during the 2011-2012 school year and made the following recommendations:

- The Universal Screener should be easy and efficient to administer
- The Universal Screener should not be administered before school starts or during the first few weeks of school
- At the K-3 level DRA2 is not a good universal screener
- RtI teams currently use and are familiar with STAR Reading assessment data
- STAR assessment data can be used as benchmark assessment data
- STAR assessments can be used for Progress Monitoring

Assessment Plan for 2012-13 School Year, Grades K-8

- Eliminate Discovery Education Assessments (DEA) for Reading and Math at all grade levels
- Eliminate DRA2 as a universal screener for grades 1-3
- Use STAR Reading and Math for grades 1-8 (and STAR Early Literacy in K for those below the beginning STAR Reading Level)
- DRA2 will be used diagnostically with a smaller group of students who are referred to the Response to Intervention team

Assessment Plan for 2012-13 School Year, Grades 9-12

- Continue using locally developed common universal screeners in reading and math
- Response to Intervention Committee will evaluate assessment tools during the 2012-13 school year



MEMORANDUM

Assessment Costs

Assessment	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Discovery Education Assessments (DEA)	34,216	0	0
*DRA2	40,500	**5000	0
STAR	5,321	58,794	38,990
Total	80,037	63,794	38,990

*This total is for substitutes hired for teachers to leave classrooms to administer the DRA2 to their students (grades K-3) three times/year, up to three days each administration.

**Estimated costs for Parker Center to administer DRA2 for fall; STAR Early Literacy administration will not begin until the Winter Benchmark period during Year 1 implementation. DRA2 will not be administered universally at K during the 2013-14 school year.