

MasteryConnect Proposal

Background

Recent advancements in technology have led to dramatic changes in the way we administer student assessments. This is underscored by the emergence of Next Generation Assessments such as PARCC. Next Generation Assessments are more technology based and interactive in nature. For example, a student's success on these assessments is dependent, in part, on his/her ability to plot points, drag and drop, select text and use a protractor. That is why it is critical that we take the necessary steps to align our system of assessments with the Next Generation standards.

An electronic formative assessment system is a valuable resource that teachers can use to effectively measure academic growth and actively engage students in the learning process. This type of system fosters both collaboration and differentiation by allowing teachers to easily share important information across grade levels and with colleagues from other schools. It also enables teachers to work together on assessment design, which are core features of high-functioning Professional Learning Communities.

Our teachers believe that having access to more common formative and summative assessments in reading and math will help us ensure that our students are college and career ready. In order to meet this need, we recommend that the district purchase MasteryConnect, which is an electronic assessment system that is "changing the focus in education from end-of-year assessments and the traditional letter-based grading system to one of real-time reporting about what students are learning relative to both state and Common Core standards." MasteryConnect offers a variety of features, including:

- Access to four assessment item banks, including Key Data Systems' INSPECT Item Bank
- Ability for teachers to collaborate on assessment design and share with the wider school community
- Ability to create district-level assessments that are given to all students in a particular grade level or course
- Ability for students to take assessments digitally or via paper and pencil
- A variety of reporting features that include individual student standard mastery, item analysis, and longitudinal analysis within grade levels and across schools
- Easy exporting of student assessment performance into PowerSchool Gradebook

Timeline and Objectives

- By February 2016, we will identify teachers in grades three through eight who will use the MasteryConnect item banks to create third trimester math unit summative assessments for a grade level or middle school course.
- During the 2015-2016 school year, the PERA Joint Committee will determine how MasteryConnect will be used to create Type III assessments for eligible courses and/or teachers.
- During the 2015-2016 school year, principals and teachers in grades three through eight will learn how to use the MasteryTracker to monitor student mastery of math standards and how to create formative assessment items for reading and math

Timeframe

	Task	Start and End Dates
Phase One	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 School Core Professional Development - Train the Trainer (up to 30 teachers/staff)• School teams train staff on MasteryConnect (focus on classroom formative assessment and MasteryTracker)	September 2015 to November 2015
Phase Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teachers (math calendar teams) in grades 3 to 5 create math unit summative assessments for 3rd trimester	January 2016 to February 2016
Phase Three	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teacher teams will conduct review of 3rd trimester math assessments and create math assessments for 1st and 2nd trimesters for 2016-2017	Spring and Summer 2016

Project Budget

- 2015-2016 Investment: \$41,456
- 2016-2017 Investment: \$41,456
- 2017-2018 Investment: \$41,456