



Public Schools of North Carolina
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

June 18, 2019

Good Afternoon RtA Contacts,

The K-3 Literacy team wanted to update you on the outcome of the State Board of Education (SBE) meeting from Friday, June 28, 2019.

There has been some confusion due to conflicting media reports. Districts will begin using Istation at the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year. We will be allowing teachers and students to become familiar with the program in the fall, and we will not use the assessment for official benchmarking until the winter (MOY). This strategic implementation process will enable a “learn-by-doing” model that should serve all new users very well.

The aggressive implementation schedule to train all teachers by the middle of August will continue accompanied by a full support system, including in-person workshops, on-demand webinars, technical assistance, and ongoing support from the K-3 Literacy team. Istation’s ISIP assessment will be available for teachers and students at the beginning of your school year. Teachers can begin the year focusing on instruction, as they use the first data collection as an opportunity to gather information to make instructional decisions. Teachers will use valid, reliable real-time data from the interactive measures to drive instruction focused on the science of reading.

Getting Started with Istation

Year 1 Roll-Out Plan

Summer 2019 (June, July, August)

- Istation enrollment and deployment activated in schools
- Live webinars hosted
- In-person regional trainings hosted
- On-going implementation support
- Districts can begin using Istation as early as July, but it will not count in metrics



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Fall 2019 (September, October, November)

- Students take Istation's ISIP assessment to begin to learn from the program
- Additional in-person regional trainings hosted
- Additional live webinars hosted
- Fall is a "getting started" learning opportunity: Data will not feed into EVAAS

Winter 2019-2020 (December, January, February)

- Ongoing progress monitoring continues
- Ongoing training continues
- JANUARY: The first benchmark window for 2019-2020 opens for EVAAS purposes (MOY)

Spring 2020 (March, April, May)

- Ongoing progress monitoring continues
- Ongoing training continues
- MAY: End-of-year benchmark window for 2019-2020 opens for EVAAS purposes (EOY)

Important information about the impact of measuring K-2 reading from the middle of the year (MOY) to the end of the year (EOY) - provided by Tom Tomberlin, Director, Educator Recruitment and Support, Office of the Deputy State Superintendent

- Given that EVAAS growth is a relative measure of performance, there is no predetermined level of performance a student must reach to show growth.
- As long as the measurement period for all participants is roughly the same, the model will yield a valid estimate of growth for a teacher relative to his/her peers in the same grade and subject.
- Teachers in the state would not be disadvantaged by the shorter measurement period because we are comparing the progress one teacher's students made to all the other teachers' progress with their students (in the same grade and subject) in the same amount of time.
- The State has measured kindergarten growth this way since the beginning of K-2 reading assessments.



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Please know that all Divisions across NCDPI are collaborating to make this transition smooth with clear, consistent, and timely updates. The K-3 Literacy team is working diligently to provide guidance for implementation and will provide an updated RtA Guidebook prior to the start of traditional school.

Thanks!
Tara

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"Be a light not a judge. Be a model not a critic. Be part of the solution not the problem."
Stephen Covey