



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

June 07, 2019

Thank you for your patience and understanding during the cumbersome process to secure the Read to Achieve K-3 reading diagnostic. As many of you know, DPI had to restart the process twice due to events outside of our control, but the silver lining of the lengthy process is that we had an unprecedented level of external stakeholder engagement and input.

On behalf of DPI and with the support of the State Board of Education, I am pleased to announce that the K-3 reading diagnostic tool will be Istation, a blended-learning tool designed to monitor student progress while minimizing instructional disruption. (See www.istation.com)

I just signed the contract with Istation a minute ago, so we are informing you as soon as we legally could. Also, DPI and local districts can now legally talk to and work with the vendor to schedule trainings.

Our K-3 Literacy team and Istation will work together to get each district an implementation plan and resources needed so that teachers and administrators are comfortable with this new tool by the time students return to the classroom. DPI will provide stipends to those leads who attend summer trainings.

In addition to sending out more information on the selected assessment, training options and schedules, DPI will also be reaching out to district staff soon to request each district's device preference so that DPI can provide you with additional devices for implementing this assessment next school year.

Again, we sincerely apologize for the delay. We know the ideal timing of this announcement would have been sooner. While certain circumstances were out of our control, we will be able to work together to ensure a successful, positive implementation.

Our K-3 Literacy team and Istation will soon be contacting you to schedule flexible in-person and virtual trainings to accommodate districts' needs. In addition, other District & Regional Support staff will be working with the K-3 Literacy Team to support districts and charter schools in this effort. Helping districts and schools with a successful launch is a top priority for all of DPI.

Thank you for everything you do for our students and your service to our state.

Sincerely,

Mark Johnson

State Superintendent