Technical Guidance for RSA Screener

Star Early Learning – Renaissance Learning, Inc.

This guidance is based off of information provided by the vendor, and is provided to assist districts in quickly finding essential information for using this screening instrument to meet the requirements of the Reading Sufficiency Act (RSA).

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Assessment Administration
Group size: ☑ Group ☐ Individual
Type: ☑ Curriculum-based measure ☑ Adaptive
Method: ☑ Paper-pencil ☑ Online

Administration Time
On average, the administration window is as follows:
- Star Early Literacy – 10 minutes or less (given as a group)
- Star Reading – 11-18 minutes (given as a group)

Times are provided by the publisher.
Required Assessment Component

Renaissance’s Star Early Learning reading assessment system is comprised of the computer-adaptive Star Early Literacy and Star Reading assessments for literacy.

Star Early Literacy tests are designed for students in grades PK through 3 (beginning readers who do not yet read independently or need early literacy skills assessed). Star Early Literacy consists of 27 items and assesses the development of key early literacy skills in phonemic awareness, letter recognition, oral language skills, phonics, estimated reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension items incorporate text, graphics, and audio instructions. Students must listen to and follow one- and two-step oral directions to complete items.

Star Reading tests are designed for students in grades K-12. Star Reading consists of 34 items and assesses comprehension, vocabulary, estimated reading fluency, and general reading achievement of independent readers. Text passages used within Star Reading provide context in which to assess a particular skill. Words in the items and passages follow grade-level guidelines for readability.

As students advance in grade level, the expectation for mastery of pre-literacy skills in Star Early Literacy increases. Between first and third grades, students typically master the pre-literacy skills necessary to move from Star Early Literacy to Star Reading. While most students move to Star Reading, those who continue testing with Star Early Literacy tend to perform lower than their grade-level peers. Star Early Literacy and Star Reading data show that 25 percent of second graders and 5 percent of third graders take Star Early Literacy.
Grade Level Benchmarks

Benchmarks are the minimum performance levels students are expected to reach by certain points of the year in order to meet end-of-year performance goals. The end-of-year benchmark typically represents the minimum level of performance required by state or local standards. Benchmarks are always grade specific, e.g., the 3rd grade benchmark.

A cut score is used to determine which students may need additional assistance to move toward the end-of-year benchmark.

- Below 10 – urgent intervention
- Below 25 – intervention
- At/above 40 - benchmark

Scores listed below reflect the standard score that correlates to the 40th percentile for each assessment window. Scores are from the Star Early Literacy (EL) Enterprise Scale and Star Reading (R) Enterprise Scale. **Students scoring below this score are considered at-risk for not meeting grade level reading expectations, and should be placed on an Academic Progress Plan (APP).**

First, second, or third grade students who meet the end-of-year third grade benchmark score are eligible for promotion to fourth grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Beginning of Year</th>
<th>Middle of Year</th>
<th>End of Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>EL: 490</td>
<td>EL: 570</td>
<td>EL: 643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Grade</td>
<td>EL: 611 R: 71</td>
<td>EL: 681 R: 82</td>
<td>EL: 742 R: 105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Grade</td>
<td>EL: 782 R: 182</td>
<td>EL: 811 R: 230</td>
<td>EL: 834 R: 279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Grade</td>
<td>R: 323</td>
<td>R: 360</td>
<td>R: 392</td>
</tr>
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