



JOY HOFMEISTER

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Joy Hofmeister

DATE: May 25, 2017

SUBJECT: Discussion and possible action to approve Fountas & Pinnell and iStation as Reading Sufficiency Act Screeners

Oklahoma law, at 70 O.S. §1210.508C, requires the State Board of Education to approve Reading Sufficiency Act (RSA) screening instruments. More specifically, the law provides:

C. The State Board of Education shall approve screening instruments for use at the beginning and end of the school year, for monitoring of progress, and for measurement of reading skills at the end of the school year as required in subsections A and B of this section; provided, at least one of the screening instruments shall meet the following criteria:

- 1. Assess for phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, and comprehension;*
- 2. Document the validity and reliability of each assessment;*
- 3. Can be used for diagnosis and progress monitoring;*
- 4. Can be used to assess special education and limited-English-proficient students; and*
- 5. Accompanied by a data management system that provides profiles for students, class, grade level and school building. The profiles shall identify each student's instructional point of need and reading achievement level. The State Board shall also determine periodic and post assessments to be used for students at risk of reading failure. The State Board shall ensure that any assessments approved are in alignment with the subject matter standards adopted by the State Board of Education. 70 O.S. §1210.508C(C)(1-5)*

The State Department of Education is requesting approval to add Fountas & Pinnell, and iStation, as Reading Sufficiency Act (RSA) Screeners to meet RSA requirements for the 2017-2018 school year. These recommendations are made pursuant to 70 O.S. §1210.508C(C)(1-5). For the 2017-2018 school year, the Department will review all RSA screeners to determine if the screeners meet the evidence-based research criteria as defined in the *Every Student Succeeds Act*, and subsequently bring recommendations to the Board for possible approval.

Oklahoma City Public Schools

Office of Superintendent

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Joy Hofmeister, State Superintendent
Oklahoma State Department of Education

FROM: Aurora Lora, Superintendent
Oklahoma City Public Schools

DATE: May 19, 2017

SUBJECT: Request to Add Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System to Approved RSA Screener List for the 2017-2018 School Year

Oklahoma City Public Schools is requesting to add Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System to the approved Reading Sufficiency Act Screener List for the 2017-18 school year. Although OKCPS is currently using an approved screener, STAR Early Literacy/Reading, to identify students in need of reading intervention, our schools also utilize the Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System.

Our temporary request is based on two primary reasons. Given current education funding in our state, OKCPS has studied areas to cut with the least impact on student learning. If allowed to replace STAR Early Literacy/Reading for FY18 with Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System, OKCPS would save \$250,000. Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System not only meets, but exceeds the requirements for state-approved screeners as detailed in the Oklahoma RSA law (70-1210.508C.1-5 Reading Sufficiency Act). While Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System provides screening data on students who are struggling readers, it also provides very specific intervention strategies to intervene with struggling readers. Finally, OKCPS teachers and administrators have been trained on and are equipped with Fountas & Pinnell resources, so no additional costs would be incurred with this request.

OKCPS would like to provide clear assurances that all of the requirements set forth in the Reading Sufficiency Act, with respect to screening for phonemic awareness, phonics, comprehension and fluency, would be met if an approval is granted:

- All teachers would be required to administer the screeners for phonemic awareness and phonics as outlined in the OKCPS ELA Assessments at a Glance calendar; and
- Clear identification of students needing intervention would be made and addressed in compliance with the RSA regulations.

Because the Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System is almost identical to the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA), currently an approved RSA screener, OKCPS respectfully requests an approval to add this as a screener for the 2017-18 school year.



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May 23, 2017

Honorable Members of the State Board of Education
Oklahoma State Department of Education
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Honorable Members of the State Board of Education,

We are writing to request that Istation be added to Oklahoma's list of RSA approved screening assessments for the 2017-2018 school year. We understand that the State Board of Education shall approve screening instruments for use at the beginning and end of the school year, for monitoring of progress, and for measurement of reading skills at the end of the school year.

We also verify that Istation's Indicators of Progress Early Reading (ISIP™ ER) meets the following criteria:

1. Assesses for phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary and comprehension;
2. Documents the validity and reliability of its assessment;
3. Can be used for diagnosis and progress monitoring;
4. Can be used to assess special education and limited-English-proficient students; and
5. Is accompanied by a data management system that provides profiles for students, class, grade level and school building. The profiles identify each student's instructional point of need and reading achievement level.

Sincerely,

Sandra Thomas
President & COO
Istation