

## QUESTIONS FROM THE RSA WEBINAR ON MARCH 24, 2016

*Most of the questions received had been asked several times. We have divided these questions into various sections.*



### **Summer Academy Reading Program (SARP)**

**1. Will the Summer Academy Reading Program (SARP) NOT be required for this school year or the 2016-2017 school year? If not, are we required to have optional reading programs?**

The summer program is not required; it is an option that districts can use as remediation and intervention for students. It has not been required since the state ceased allocating specific dollars for that effort.

**2. Must teachers that teach SARP have one of the required trainings listed on the SARP report?**

Yes, teachers that teach SARP must have one of the required trainings if RSA funds are used. The required trainings are the following: Dynamic Measurement (Dibels), LETRS, Literacy First, or they must be certified as a Reading Specialist.

**3. Will there be additional trainings that districts may use to qualify SARP teachers?**

Please contact the vendor for any training available. Please make sure you are signed up on the Reading listserv to receive information on trainings and other RSA items. Please contact Vickie Hale at [Vickie.hale@sde.ok.gov](mailto:Vickie.hale@sde.ok.gov) to subscribe to the listserv.

**4. If we do not meet all of the requirements to have SARP, can we still use RSA funds to pay for our summer program?**

For the 2015-2016 school year, the State Board of Education gave flexibility to districts concerning the use of RSA funds. SARP is required **only if funding is provided**.

This is the link to the news release of the January 28, 2016 State Board of Education Meeting: <http://sde.ok.gov/sde/newsblog/2016-01-28/state-board-education-removes-restrictions-nearly-30-million-give-flexibility>

The school must provide remediation for retained third graders, but the remediation does not have to include SARP. If you do use RSA funds to finance SARP, then the requirements still apply.

**5. How can we NOT provide SARP to third grade students scoring *Unsatisfactory*? I thought that was part of the law?**

SARP is not required; it is an option that districts can use as remediation and intervention for students. It has not been required since the state ceased sending specific dollars for that effort.

**6. Is SARP or other summer school programs required for students scoring *Unsatisfactory* before they can take the alternative assessment?**

For the 2015-2016 school year, the State Board of Education gave flexibility to districts concerning the use of RSA funds. SARP is required only if funding is provided. The school has to provide remediation for retained third graders, but it doesn't have to include SARP.

<http://sde.ok.gov/sde/newsblog/2016-01-28/state-board-education-removes-restrictions-nearly-30-million-give-flexibility>

**7. If the district does not provide a summer program, is the student required to have outside tutoring or some type of reading program and an alternative assessment completed before the probationary promotion meeting? If so, are there any documentation requirements of outside services?**

No. A district isn't required to do anything before having the probationary promotion meeting. Teachers are, however, encouraged to continue ongoing conversation with parents concerning their student's reading ability.

### **OCCT Scoring and Promotion/Retention**

**1. One of the "does not meet criteria" was *Limited Knowledge* and another *Limited Knowledge* said "meets criteria." Do students who score *Limited Knowledge* pass this year?**

Overall performance in *Limited Knowledge* and *Unsatisfactory* categories no longer determine whether or not a student is promoted or retained.

The RSA Status and the OCCT Performance Levels are independent of one another. A student must correctly answer at least 18 items from Standards 2.0 and 4.0 to receive a "Meets RSA Criteria Status." It is possible for a student to score *Limited Knowledge* on the OCCT, but receive a "Does Not Meet Criteria" for the RSA status or score *Unsatisfactory* on the OCCT and still receive a "Meets RSA Criteria Status". The law is very specific on which standards shall be used for making an RSA criterion determination.

**2. There was some confusion about one slide saying *Limited Knowledge* criteria and another saying *Unsatisfactory*. Is it still *Unsatisfactory* this school year and *Limited Knowledge* for 2016-2017?**

For the 2016-2017 school year, *Limited Knowledge* criteria will be subject to retention.

SB 630 explains that concerning the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years, a student not eligible for automatic promotion...and who scores at the *Unsatisfactory* or *Limited Knowledge* levels on the reading portion of the third-grade statewide criterion-referenced test may be evaluated for "probationary promotion" by the Student Reading Proficiency Team.

Therefore, based on SB630, each student will receive one of two statuses on the third grade reading report:

- ✓ Meets RSA Criteria
- ✓ Does Not Meet RSA Criteria

**3. Does the Pre-K retention for academic reasons rule apply for this school year?**

Yes. The Pre-K retention for academic reasons is in effect for the 2015-2016 school year.

**4. If a student scores third-grade proficient on an approved assessment after he/she takes the OCCT, can the student still be promoted to the fourth grade?**

Yes. The student can be promoted.

**5. Can a district assessment be used at the end of summer school to promote a student to fourth grade this summer June 2016?**

To promote a student in this way, the screening instrument must be one of the State Board of Education (SBE) approved 13 assessments.

The law stipulates as follows:

*H. 1. Any first-grade, second-grade or third-grade student who demonstrates proficiency in reading at the third-grade level through a screening instrument which meets the acquisition of reading skills criteria shall not be subject to the retention guidelines. Upon demonstrating the proficiency through the screening, the district shall provide notification to the parent(s) and/or guardian(s) of the student that they have satisfied the requirements of the Reading Sufficiency Act and will not be subject to retention.*

**6. What is the cut score of the 36 questions to pass the RSA portion of the OCCT?**

The raw cut score is 18 for this year only. For the 2016-2017 school year, the cut score will be based upon *Limited Knowledge* and *Unsatisfactory* criteria.

**7. For this year and forward, do we only use the RSA Proficiency Column on the OCCT to determine proficiency and not *Limited Knowledge* or *Unsatisfactory*?**

Yes. You will only use the RSA Proficiency Column on the OCCT to determine proficiency.

**8. I need a little more information about sixth through eighth grade. Will they or will they not follow the same 90 minutes of reading plus 45 minutes of intervention (SRPT promoted students)?**

They will follow the same 90 minutes of reading plus 45 minutes of intervention. Sixth grade students fall under the Achieving Classroom Excellence (ACE) Act requirements; not the RSA requirements. Implement the same intervention with students below grade-level as they transition from seventh to eighth grade.

**9. Will the Lexile level of the student also be on the Roster Report on the portal to eliminate the process of searching through individual Student Reports?**

Lexile scores are in development to be included in the student roster final reports in late July/early August. As they are in development, there is no guarantee that the Lexile scores will be included in the two week reports.

## **Student Reading Proficiency Team (SRPT)**

**1. Does the Student Reading Proficiency Team (SRPT) for first and second graders meet only in the spring of the school year (in preparation for the next school year) or in the fall and spring of the grade level? For example, a first grader scores below proficient at the fall benchmark. Does the SRPT team meet at the fall benchmark?**

The SRPT team should meet when the student performs below benchmark.

Senate Bill 630 stipulates:

*A student enrolled in first or second grades who has been assessed as provided for and found not to be reading at the corresponding grade level, shall be entitled to individualized remediation in reading until the student is determined by the results of a screening instrument to be reading on grade level. The program of reading instruction for each student shall be developed by a Student Reading Proficiency Team and shall include individualized remediation. Each team shall be composed of:*

- a. the parent or guardian of the student;
- b. the teacher assigned to the student who had responsibility for reading instruction in that academic year;
- c. a teacher who is responsible for reading instruction and is assigned to teach in the next grade level of the student; and
- d. a certified reading specialist, if one is available.

**2. Are all students in first and second grades not reading on grade level (according to RSA) required to have a SRPT meeting?**

Yes. All students not reading on grade level in first and second grade must have an SRPT meeting.

**3. I'm confused about the changes between the 40<sup>th</sup> percentile and the 45<sup>th</sup> percentile? Also, what does the 393 scale score mean on the STAR assessment and when does it begin?**

The 40th percentile has not changed. It pertains to the 13 State Board of Education (SBE) approved screening instruments. The 45th percentile qualifies for good-cause exemption 3. The 45th percentile must be obtained on one of the four alternative standardized reading assessments.

The 393 scale score is the minimum level of proficiency for the end of third grade for the STAR assessment, which is one of the 13 State Board of Education approved screening instruments.

**4. When a fifth grade student has a probationary promotion, does the sixth grade teacher need to attend the SRPT meeting since the student will be transitioning to the ACE requirements?**

70 O.S. § 1210.508C(H)(4)(b) implies that for a fifth grade student who was approved for probationary promotion, the sixth grade teacher should be part of the reading proficiency team as the student transitions to ACE remediation. Any means of participation that allows for a sixth grade teacher's meaningful review and input could meet this requirement, if district policy permits it.

**5. For fourth and fifth grade students who were previously promoted by probationary promotion and did not meet grade-level requirements, is there an alternative assessment that they can take in order to be promoted to the next grade level? In SB 630, section 4b, it stated that the SRPT will continue to review the performance and repeat the requirements of the paragraph which includes the probationary promotion each year until the student demonstrates grade-level performance. Please clarify.**

The student will be promoted to the fourth grade if the team members unanimously recommend "probationary promotion" to the school principal and the school district superintendent, and the principal and superintendent approve the recommendation that promotion is the best option for the student. If a student is allowed a "probationary promotion," the team will continue to review the reading performance of the student and repeat the requirements of this paragraph each academic year until the student demonstrates grade-level reading proficiency, as identified through a screening instrument which meets the acquisition of reading skills criteria for the corresponding grade level in which the student is enrolled or transitions to the requirements set forth by the Achieving Classroom Excellence (ACE) Act.

### **Academic Progress Plan (APP)**

**1. Is there a Spanish version of the Parent Brochure? I can only find it in English on the website.**

A Spanish version of the Parent Brochure will be available for the 2016-2017 school year.

**2. Does the APP continue throughout each grade level? When is the transition from RSA to ACE?**

The APP does continue throughout each grade level. Sixth grade students will fall under the ACE requirements; not RSA requirements.

**3. Are fourth grade students reading below grade level required to have an APP?**

Only those fourth graders who have been promoted on probation or promoted with a good-cause exemption are required to have an APP.

**4. Will taking a remedial reading class cover the APP requirements for students who are transitioning to middle school?**

Middle school students are not required to have an APP.

<http://sde.ok.gov/sde/achieving-classroom-excellence-act-ace>

## **Remediation/Levels of Instruction**

**1. Will the required time for remediation on Tier 3 have decreased remediation time as with Tier 2?**

Tier 3 will not have decreased time. It is mandatory for Tier 3 students to have 45-60 minutes of intervention.

**2. Do middle school sites have to provide a 90 minute reading block?**

No. Middle schools do not have to provide a 90 minute block.

**3. If a student has an exemption once they are promoted to fourth grade, what are the requirements for fourth grade RTI/Reading Specialists?**

Any student based on the basis of a good-cause exemption should receive intensive reading instruction through the continued implementation of an Academic Progress Plan (APP).

According to legislative rule 210:15-27-2:

*(e) Any student promoted on the basis of a good-cause exemption listed in 70 O.S. §1210.508C(K) should continue to receive intensive reading instruction and intensive instructional services and supports through the continued implementation of an Academic Progress Plan (APP) to remedy the reading deficiency.*

**4. We were confused about the scoring on DIBELS or STAR. If a student scored on a fourth grade level even in first grade, are they to be exempt from the third grade OCCT?**

The student must take the third grade OCCT but will be exempt from retention.

**5. Will there be DIBELS next training this summer?**

To receive information concerning DIBELS, please contact Dynamic Measurement Group.