



Dear Parents,

District 300 elementary and middle schools will soon be implementing a program called *i-Ready® Diagnostic & Instruction* that will provide our students with an innovative diagnostic assessment (delivered once in the fall, winter, and spring) and engaging instruction that teachers can use to support their curriculum. The focus of this online program is reading and math.

i-Ready Diagnostic & Instruction helps teachers to effectively assess their students and then provide individualized instruction based on each student's unique needs. District 300 is not adding an additional layer of assessment with i-Ready, rather it is replacing some previously used assessments that did not provide the comprehensive information and tools i-Ready possesses.

i-Ready Diagnostic & Instruction assesses and teaches the following skill areas:

Reading

- Phonological Awareness
- Phonics
- High-Frequency Words
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension

Math

- Number and Operations
- Algebra and Algebraic Thinking
- Measurement and Data
- Geometry

i-Ready Diagnostic & Instruction begins by giving students an adaptive assessment in reading and math. An adaptive assessment is a test that automatically adjusts the difficulty of the questions according to each student's performance in order to determine his or her abilities in reading and math. Before your child begins the assessment, it's important to set appropriate expectations. *i-Ready* is a very different kind of test that presents students with questions that can be both too easy and too hard. It is designed to do this until the assessment finds exactly the level at which the student is performing. Therefore, your child will certainly see some items above his or her level. Encourage your child to independently complete the test to the best of his or her ability, and know that it is okay to get questions wrong.

Each time a student gets an item incorrect, he or she will be presented with a simpler question until the diagnostic finds the grade level at which the student is performing. The assessment efficiently assesses students across multiple grade levels, allowing for identification of root causes of students' struggles or for identification of areas where a student is ready for further challenge. This information will then provide the teacher with a "road map" for enrichment or additional support to meet grade level expectations.

Once your child completes the test, he or she will be assigned online instruction to further develop his/her skills in the areas of reading and math. The online instruction is designed to be both challenging and engaging. *i-Ready* delivers instruction using engaging, contemporary animation; the lessons are also interactive. The result is an experience that attracts and holds



your child's interest while also teaching important skills and concepts. These lessons are proven to help students grow academically.

In addition, *i-Ready Diagnostic & Instruction* supports the teachers and administrators at your child's school. The program provides a series of comprehensive reports designed to make classroom instruction more effective. These reports include data about student performance as well as detailed teaching suggestions. They help educators make informed decisions about the instruction that is right for your child, including providing additional supports as necessary.

The diagnostic testing windows for the 2015-2016 school year are as follows:

- Fall Testing Window – August 24 through September 11
- Winter Testing Window – November 30 through December 18
- Spring Testing Window – April 18 through May 6

Schools will send home i-Ready assessment results in the areas of reading and math following each testing window.

For more information on *i-Ready Diagnostic & Instruction*, please visit the Curriculum Associates website at www.CurriculumAssociates.com. Should you have further questions, please contact your school office or your child's teacher.

Regards,

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