



Informational Memo - Computer Adaptive Assessment Selection

TO: School Board
Superintendent Kocanda

FROM: The Curriculum Office

DATE: February 23, 2016

Overview & Background

Due to the need to replace Renaissance Learning's STAR assessment, The Winnetka Public Schools administrators began to review alternative computer adaptive assessments that are nationally normed. The assessment is to provide progress monitoring and student growth data. We are setting a target to recommend a computer adaptive assessment by April 2016 with intent for May 2016 administration. This will allow us to have an initial benchmark this spring and prepare for full implementation next fall.

Four years ago, the RtI Assessment Committee conducted an extensive study on the available computer adaptive tests and identified the various strengths and weaknesses. NWEA MAP and Scantron Performance Series were the other two assessment options identified and evaluated. Both of these assessments are used in other New Trier Township schools. For these reasons, the District is looking to replace the STAR with one of these two well-known assessments.

A representative team of administrators is leading the assessment selection process, which will include teacher feedback and consult at key times in the process. A monthly update on this process will be included in the Board materials, with a final recommendation no later than April.

February 2016 Update

The selection committee consists of Principals Dave Kanne, and Susan Hugebeck, Director of Student Services Beth Martin, Curriculum Coordinator Betty Weir, and

Consultant to the Curriculum Office Lynn Novak.

The committee developed a timeline, reviewed the work of the 2012 RtI committee, surveyed the staff, and has begun to gather additional information.

Timeline

The timeline was developed with the goal of administering the new assessment in May of 2016. To do this, we would provide staff training at the April 22 Institute Day and have a recommendation for the Board to consider at their April 19th meeting.

Timeline for Making an Assessment Recommendation to the Board of Education

Date	Actions
January 7	Form committee and communicate mission and goals
January 20	Schedule meetings
	Gather information about the assessments
	Develop rubric to use in evaluating assessments
January 20	Poll faculty members who are familiar with MAP or Scantron to share benefits and drawbacks of each assessment
January 25	Review assessment options with District's data analysis consultants

February 1	Develop committee norms, review timeline, rubric, comments from poll, share information, schedule additional dates
February 2- 22	Read articles in folder, draft purpose statement, continue research and speaking with educators from other districts who use Scantron and MAP
February 22	Meetings with assessment company representatives
	Schedule additional meetings as needed

March	Initiate a recommendation for an assessment
	Plan and budget for professional development
March 15	Board of Education Meeting Update

April	
April 19	Board of Ed Meeting - Recommendation & Approval
April 22	Institute Day - train staff

May	
May 9-20	Assess students with new assessment
	Review results from assessment

Survey

All staff were offered an opportunity to respond to survey questions about their experience with either NWEA MAP or Scantron Performance Series. Twenty-seven staff members responded and shared their views and experience of the assessments. The committee reviewed and considered all of the responses and followed up on some of the recommendations (such as reading specific articles or contacting specific districts who use the assessments).

Next Steps

Committee work is ongoing. Members are reaching out to districts that use the assessments, are gathering information from the websites and have scheduled presentations from both testing companies. Additional considerations must be given to staff training in administering the assessment, retrieving and analyzing reports and data, and using the data for instructional purposes, as well as budget planning.