



COLORADO DEPARTMENT *of* EDUCATION

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Robert K. Hammond
Commissioner of Education

Keith Owen, Ph.D.
Deputy Commissioner

February 24, 2014

Dear Superintendents and BOCES Directors,

Thank you for your ongoing work to implement the READ Act as we work together to ensure all children in Colorado are reading at grade level by the end of third grade. Key components of this effort are having effective interim assessments to monitor student progress and quickly intervening when children struggle. The purpose of this letter is to provide information on recent State Board of Education action to approve interim reading assessments for the READ Act.

Background and Process

The READ Act requires the use of an interim assessment to determine whether a student has a significant reading deficiency in grades K through 3. The rules currently identify PALS, DIBELS, and DRA2 as approved interim assessments for this purpose. These assessments can be continued to be used through June 30, 2016. The rules also directed the department to conduct a review process to identify interim assessments approved for use in 2013-14 and beyond.

In the fall, CDE initiated a request for information process to solicit interim reading assessments. CDE engaged a committee of educators from across the state with literacy and assessment expertise to review the assessments and make recommendations for approval. The department presented the recommendations of the committee to the State Board of Education at their December 2013 meeting. Publishers of assessments not recommended by the review committee were able to submit an appeal. In January, a review of the appeals was conducted by CDE's Office of Literacy, review committee members, and educators who assisted in creating the review rubric. No appeal submissions were able to meet the review criteria. For a full description of the review process, please visit the READ website (<http://www.cde.state.co.us/coloradoliteracy/readreviewprocess>).

Approved Assessments

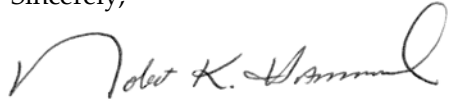
Based on the recommendations of the review committee, the State Board approved the following interim assessments for use in meeting the requirements of the READ Act.

| English Assessments | Spanish Assessments |
|--|--|
| aimsweb | |
| Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Learning Skills Next (DIBELS Next) | Indicadores Dinámicos del Éxito en la Lectura (IDEL) |
| Formative Assessment System for Teachers (FAST) | |
| i Ready | |
| ISIP Early Reading Istation | ISIP Early Reading Spanish Istation |
| Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) | Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening Español |
| STAR Early Learning | |

Districts will have through June 30, 2016 (as allowed in statute, C.R.S. 22-7-1209) to transition to the approved interim assessments.

If you have questions about implementation of the READ Act or resources available to districts and schools, contact Pati Montgomery, Executive Director of the CDE Office of Literacy at montgomery_p@cde.state.co.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert K. Hammond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "H".

Robert K. Hammond
Commissioner of Education

CC: Keith Owen, Deputy Commissioner, CDE
Jill Hawley, Associate Commissioner, CDE
Pati Montgomery, Executive Director-Office of Literacy, CDE