iREADY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the iReady assessment?

The iReady 'diagnostic' assessment is administered three times a year (fall, winter, spring) to all students in grades K-8. iReady assessment is a tool that screens students across four domains in Math (Algebra and Algebraic Thinking, Measurement and Data, Number and Operations, and Geometry) and six domains in Reading (Phonological Awareness, Phonics, High Frequency Words, Vocabulary, Comprehension: Literature, and Comprehension: Informational Text. iReady is not a "high-stakes" test and the results are not factored into student grades. The iReady scores are just one piece of a student's Reading and mathematics profile and are used in conjunction with many other reading and mathematics assessments and performances.

What are computer-adaptive tests?

iReady is a computer-adaptive test (CAT). Computer-adaptive tests continually adjust the difficulty of each test by determining each question based on the previous response. If a student answers correctly, the difficulty level of the next item increases. If a student misses a question, the difficulty level of the next item decreases.

How long does it take to complete a iReady assessment?

iReady is designed to be as efficient as possible. On average, students will complete iReady in under 45 minutes for the primary grades and closer to an hour to 75 minutes in the intermediate grades. Some students may require more time and others less time. This will be done in two to three class sessions.

What are iReady assessments used for?

The iReady assessment is used as a screening tool which means all students take the test under the same conditions three times a year. The assessments are used to measure student growth and identify students who may need support or follow up diagnostics. iReady can also be used to monitor student growth throughout the year, and to estimate understanding of state standards. In addition, iReady can help teachers determine appropriate instructional areas and skills that a student is ready to learn.

What is the scale score?

Scale scores measure what skills a student has mastered and estimates the skills to work on next. When looking at these scores, it's important to note that the first number in a scale score does not equate to a grade level. For example, a scale score in the 500s does NOT mean that a student's grade-level placement is fifth grade.

What is the performance level?

Performance Levels are provided for the overall performance and for each domain. Placement Levels – label helps teachers determine what grade level of skills to focus on with each student. It provides information on what the student can likely do, and what the student might benefit from learning next. Placement levels indicate where students should be receiving instruction based on a single assessment. It is imperative that teachers compare this data with other assessments and daily performance when making instructional decisions. iReady assesses state standards in relation to the grade level. It does not indicate that a child's grade level should change, but it does have implications for differentiation.

The parent report also includes a breakdown of a student's performance for each domain. The descriptors are related to the scale score and are not child specific. It is important to compare the information provided with what the teacher knows about the student's daily performance.

What is percentile rank?

Norm Scores – identify how students are performing relative to national grade-level peers. For example, if a student's percentile rank is 90%, this means the student scored better than or equal to 90% of her national peers from the same grade level.

What does it mean if a child's score fluctuates?

With any standardized test, there is variation from the first to second administrations. This expected regression to the mean for students who score at the highest and lowest ranges of the assessment levels out as students take the test multiple times. Students may guess a question correctly and then the computer adaptive feature will adjust the level of the next question. As students take the test several times, this statistical variation steadies out and a trend line becomes clearer. iReady can detect when a student rushes in responding to questions. This often affects a student's performance results.

Why are there multiple results on a student's report?

A result is generated with every administration of the iReady diagnostic assessment. Students who rush through the test are indicated on the assessment. These students often re-take the test for a more accurate portrayal of her/his performance.