VPK Progress Monitoring Assessment Program Pilot
Using Star Early Literacy
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

General Questions

1. **What is the purpose of the VPK Progress Monitoring Assessment Program Pilot?**
   The Division of Early Learning (DEL) is implementing a voluntary, two-year pilot to administer a progress monitoring assessment using the Star Early Literacy Assessment. The pilot allows the opportunity for providers to have data consistency between VPK and kindergarten 2020-2022. Star Early Literacy data will support VPK teachers and administrators in instructional planning, and assessing and measuring VPK student's growth throughout the VPK school year.

2. **Who was eligible to apply to participate in the VPK Star Early Literacy Assessment Pilot?**
   Private and public school VPK providers who:
   • Are "in good standing" with their VPK provider contract and have no Class I violations within the past two years.
   • Offer a VPK school year program spanning the length of the school year (e.g., August through May).

3. **When does the VPK Progress Monitoring Assessment Program Pilot begin and how long will it last?**
   The pilot began in January 2021, and continues into the next program year (e.g., 2020-2021 and 2021-2022).

4. **How much does a Star Early Literacy Assessment subscription cost?**
   The Star Early Literacy Assessment subscription is **FREE to ALL** VPK providers who are approved to participate in the pilot.

5. **How do participating VPK providers go about requesting support while using the Star Early Literacy Assessment in their VPK Program?**
   Participating VPK providers may obtain support on using the Star Early Literacy Assessment via the following resources:
   • Pilot website: http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/vpk/vpk-star-early-literacy-assessment-pilot
   • Technology requirements: http://doc.renlearn.com/KMNet/R004312127GJB43D.pdf
   • Help Desk and Technical Assistance
     o **Renaissance Place Help Desk: 1-800-338-4204 or** PilotVPK@renaissance.com
     o DEL policy technical assistance**:** VPKStarPilot@oel.myflorida.com

6. **Are providers participating in the VPK Progress Monitoring Assessment Program Pilot using Star Early Literacy also required to administer the VPK Assessment?**
   • In the 2020-2021 school year, the VPK Assessment was required for administration at AP3 in addition to the Star Early Literacy Assessment. As the pilot began in January 2021, the VPK Assessment AP1 had already been administered. For the purposes of data consistency and project evaluation both Star Early literacy and the VPK Assessment were administered at AP3 for providers participating in the pilot.
   • In the 2021-2022 school year, the administration of the VPK Assessment is required for AP1 and AP3 in addition to the Star Early Literacy Assessment for AP1, AP2 and AP3.

7. **Will the Star Early Literacy Assessment data be used for VPK accountability?**
No. The Star Early Literacy Assessment tool is provided to VPK providers participating in the two-year VPK Progress Monitoring Program Pilot in school-years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, to support VPK teachers and administrators in instructional planning, and assessing and measuring VPK student's growth throughout the VPK school year.

8. **Who will have access to the Star Early Literacy Assessment data collected during the VPK school year?**
VPK providers participating in the pilot, the DEL, school districts and the local early learning coalition will have access to the Star Early Literacy Assessment data.

9. **What will the DEL and the early learning coalition do with the Star Early Literacy Assessment data collected during VPK school year?**
DEL and/or the early learning coalition may request data assessment information aggregate and/or individualized for information purposes.

10. **Will trainings on the Star Early Literacy Assessment be available to VPK providers participating in the pilot?**
Yes. Renaissance will provide DEL with webinars and virtual trainings that will be made available to VPK providers.

11. **Will a VPK provider still have access to the resource websites used for instructional planning after the Star subscription for the pilot has expired?**
No. Once the 2021-2022 school year is over the Star Early Literacy subscription will end and access to resources will expire.

VPK Star Early Literacy Assessment

12. **How often is the VPK Star Early Literacy Assessment administered?**
The VPK Star Early Literacy Assessment is administered during the first 30 calendar days of the school year VPK program (AP1), mid-year (AP2), and last 30 calendar days of the school year VPK program (AP3). Throughout the year, the assessment will also be available for ongoing progress monitoring, as needed for students.

13. **What types of electronic devices can the Star Early Literacy Assessment be administered on?**
The STAR Early Literacy Assessment may be administered using a variety of electronic devices (e.g., laptop or desktop computer [with a touchscreen or mouse], iPad). Information regarding technology requirements may be accessed at http://doc.renlearn.com/KMNet/R004312127GJB43D.pdf.

14. **Can the Star Early Literacy Assessment scaled scores be shared with parents?**
Yes. Star Early Literacy Assessment scaled scores can be shared with VPK student's parents through the Star Parent Letter after each assessment is completed.

15. **How can a parent become familiar with the Star Early Literacy Assessment if they do not have access to a computer at home?**
Parents may use computers at local libraries or other agencies and learn about Star Early Literacy Assessment on the Renaissance website (www.renaissance.com).

Intellectual Property

16. **Are VPK teachers or other staff allowed to photograph, film, or record the assessment as it happens on the student's screen?**
No. The contractor, Renaissance Learning, owns the intellectual property, including copyrights and trademarks, related to the Star Early Literacy assessment. Capturing the screen or copying it by taking a photograph or filming it would infringe upon Renaissance's intellectual property rights. Those rights are protected by federal and Florida laws.

17. **What are the consequences of infringing intellectual property rights?**
The consequences for violating those rights can be very severe and include penalties for statutory damages ranging up to $150,000 per violation.

18. **What should I do if I see a colleague or visitor filming or otherwise copying the assessment?**
As soon as possible, let a proctor or assessment coordinator know so that they can address the situation. In most cases, especially those when the person capturing the assessment is unaware of intellectual property laws, this will likely mean educating that person and having her or him delete the infringing photos or video.

Accommodations

19. **What language will be available for Star Early Literacy Assessment administration?**
The VPK Progress Monitoring Assessment Pilot Program using Star Early Literacy is available to administer in English.

20. **Are there general accommodations that are available to students who may need additional assistance in accessing Star Early Literacy?**
Yes. Star Early Literacy can be administered with a number of accommodations that typically do not impact the validity of the students' scores.

Available accommodations include the following:

Setting Accommodations
- Administer the test in a location with minimal distractions.
- Administer the test in a separate location.
- Administer the test in a small group.
- Administer the test individually.
- Administer the test in a room with special acoustics.
- Administer the test in a room with special lighting.
- Administer the test in a room with special furniture.

Presentation Accommodations
- Magnify the size of the font type.
- Read the testing directions (but not the test itself) orally to students.
- Sign the testing directions (but not the test itself) to hearing-impaired students.
- Read the testing directions (but not the test itself) in the students' native language.
- Click the Listen button for the student, so that the platform repeats the question.

Response Accommodations
- Alter the method of input from mouse to keyboard (or vice versa), or to an assistive device. Assessments also can be administered on an iPad to utilize touchscreen functionality.
- Have the student respond orally. Then have the teacher enter the student's response in the system.

Timing Accommodations
- While nearly all students are able to answer Star Early Literacy assessment items within the standard time limits, teachers may extend time limits for individual students who need more time to demonstrate their proficiency. Extended time limits have no effect on the test's validity, as a student's performance on a test question remains solely a function of the test's calibrated difficulty and what that student knows and can do, not how quickly the student can do it.
- Star Early Literacy reports indicate (via a footnote) whether a student was given an extended time limit to complete a test. A further note indicates that norms, as well as other technical data such as reliability and validity, are based on test administration using standard time limits.

21. **Is there a paper-based assessment for students who cannot access Star Early Literacy via computer? What about enlarged font for vision-impaired students?**
    Currently, there is not a paper-based assessment. Students with vision impairment may use a screen magnifier to view enlarged font and characters.

    More information regarding accommodations may be accessed at
    http://doc.renlearn.com/KMNet/R00581317DED9FC4.pdf