


October 14, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors, Early Learning Coalitions
VPK School District Contacts

FROM: Shan Goff, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: VPK Progress Monitoring Assessment Pilot – 2020-031

We are pleased to announce that the Office of Early Learning (OEL) will implement a voluntary, two-year pilot to administer the Star Early Literacy Assessment in private and public providers beginning in January 2021. Administration of STAR Early Literacy in Florida's VPK programs will establish consistency in assessments between VPK and Kindergarten and provide a more comprehensive overview of the learning and growth continuum during critical early learning years. This pilot is funded through Child Care Development Fund/CARES and is one of our priority projects.

Star Early Literacy[®] is an online, adaptive instrument that students complete independently in approximately 15-20 minutes. Star Early Literacy[®] is comprised of 27 items and is administered using computer-adaptive procedures. This design allows for students to be assessed using items that appropriately match their ability level. The primary advantage of using a technology-based platform to administer Star Early Literacy[®] is the ability to tailor each student's test based on his or her responses to previous items.

The online, adaptive instrument allows students to respond in multiple technology formats, including touchscreen, mouse or keyboard, with extended time available as an accommodation. Appropriate FLKRS test administration practices include following administration manual guidance, orienting students to the assessment using the Star Early Literacy[®] practice test, supervising students taking the test individually or in small groups, and providing extended time as an accommodation, if appropriate.

The Star Early Literacy Assessment will be used to assess VPK children participating in the pilot during the first 30 instructional days of the school year VPK program, mid-year and end-of-year. Because Year 1 of the pilot begins in January 2021, participating providers will administer the first assessment mid-year of their school year program in January/February 2021.

Throughout the year, the Star Early Literacy Assessment will also be available for ongoing progress monitoring, as needed for students. Star Early Literacy Assessment data may be used by VPK instructors and administrators to assist in planning for instruction.

SHAN GOFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING

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OEL will provide one technology device and a set of headphones for each classroom participating in the pilot to assist in administering the Star Early Literacy Assessment for those providers who apply and are approved to participate in the pilot.

For more information regarding the Star Early Literacy Assessment Pilot, including the link where VPK providers may apply, please visit <http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/vpk/vpk-star-early-literacy-assessment-pilot>. The attached guidance document provides additional information regarding the pilot implementation.

Please feel free to contact us at VPKStarPilot@oel.myflorida.com if you have any questions.

SGG/mw

Attachment: VPK Progress Monitoring Program Pilot Flyer