

Elementary School

March, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Enclosed are the fall and winter STAR Reading and iReady Math parent reports for the winter assessments that your child recently completed. STAR Reading and iReady Math are computer-adaptive assessments that adjust the difficulty of questions based on the student's previous responses. Similar to the Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA), if a question is answered correctly, the difficulty level of the next question is increased. If a question is answered incorrectly, the difficulty level is decreased.

The more times a student takes the assessment, the more accurate the results. Given this fluctuation in the first few test administrations, your child's score can vary from one test to the next test.

Below is information to help interpret the reports, which you may retain for your records.

The STAR Parent Report

- Percentile Rank (PR) indicates how a child performed in comparison to national peers.
- Instructional Reading Level (IRL) estimates the text level a student can read with some help. It does not correspond with grade level placement nor does it help identify books for your child.
- Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) relates to reading levels in *Accelerated Reader*, a *Renaissance Learning* product not utilized by Fairfield Public Schools. Our students have access to classroom and school libraries with a variety of texts.

The iReady Parent Report

- Scale Score (SS) is based on the difficulty level of the questions and the number of correct answers. This is useful when comparing a child's performance over time and across grades.
Note: We translated the scale scores into national percentile rank based on the information provided to the district from iReady. These iReady national percentile scores can be found on Infinite Campus under the assessment tab.
- Also note that iReady uses a higher level of cut off scores for each performance level, and these are not aligned to the SBA assessment. When we translated the scale scores into percentile scores, we used cutoff scores aligned to the SBA.
- Placement Levels (PL) are based on student's level of performance overall and on each subtest.

It is important that teachers, parents, and students clearly understand that these STAR and iReady scores are most useful when combined with other information about the student. These assessments are used by teachers to verify and cross-check with other assessments and

are not used to calculate a student's grade. These scores may be used as an additional screening tool to ensure that all students are making progress. These assessments can in no way substitute for the professional judgement of teachers. The observations conducted by teachers, along with multiple assessment scores, provide a profile of your child's reading and math achievement.

The teacher is the best source of information about your child's progress. As always parents and caregivers can provide continual support for your children by enjoying time reading, talking about books, and engaging in authentic problem-solving at home. These activities will help your child to build a love of learning.

Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions.

Sincerely,