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GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM 25-05

TO: All Local Education Agencies

FROM: Dr. Steve Canavero, Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction 

DATE: July 17, 2025

SUBJECT: Updates Regarding Assessments for Read by Grade Three

BACKGROUND

The 83rd (2025) Session of the Nevada Legislature concluded on June 2, 2025; this memorandum serves to inform local education agencies (LEAs) of changes made by Senate Bill (SB) 278 (2025) and SB460 (2025) regarding Read by Grade Three (RBG3) assessments.

OVERVIEW OF CHANGES TO READ BY GRADE 3 ASSESSMENTS

Historically, the selection of the RBG3 assessment was determined by the State Board of Education (State Board) once every five years as contracts expired. The current state assessment selected by the State Board and administered by the Nevada Department of Education (NDE or Department) is the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Growth assessment provided by the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA). The State Board is responsible for selecting the cut score for the state assessment, which would be used to measure student proficiency; the state assessment could then be used in combination with local assessments and teacher observations to identify students with deficiencies in the subject area of reading. All LEAs were required to use the selected state assessment to satisfy requirements in Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 388 and 392.

Under [SB 460](#), section 15.6, LEAs may select and use an assessment of their choice for the RBG3 assessment, provided certain parameters are met (NRS 388.157). The State Board remains responsible for selecting the RBG3 assessment to be administered by the Department, as well as establishing cut scores for any approved RBG3 assessments. The Department will adopt regulations prescribing how LEAs shall collect and report the results of an assessment, and establish the criteria used to prescribe one or more valid and reliable standards-based statewide assessments that an LEA may use to assess a pupil's proficiency in the subject area of reading. If an LEA elects to select and use a Department approved RBG3 assessment other than the assessment administered by the Department, they are responsible for the associated costs. The Department is further charged with identifying a methodology to offset costs for these LEAs should funding be available.

Under [SB278](#), the ability to use local assessments to determine a student's proficiency was removed, requiring that only approved state assessments and teacher observations be used to identify students with deficiencies in the subject area of reading (NRS 392.750-755).

PROCESS FOR REVIEWING ASSESSMENTS

Pursuant to SB460, the Department is responsible for:

- a. Developing regulations that prescribe the manner by which LEAs will be required to collect and report the results of an approved RBG3 assessment;
- b. Providing the criteria that a RBG3 assessment must meet to be considered valid, reliable, and standards-based; and
- c. Reviewing, approving, and identifying the assessments that may be used by an LEA to assess a pupil's proficiency in the subject area of reading.
- d. Identifying and/or soliciting valid linking studies for each assessment.

Pursuant to SB460, the State Board is responsible for:

- a. Selecting a contract for the RBG3 assessment to be made available to all LEAs free of charge.
- b. Determining cut scores for any approved RBG3 assessments.
 - i. The State Board must determine a cut score for the assessment in order for the assessment to be utilized in compliance with the law.

USE OF THE I-READY ASSESSMENT IN SY25-26

The Department is working with the State Board of Education to approve an additional assessment, i-Ready, for SY25-26. The i-Ready assessment is well-positioned for approval, having been selected as the statewide vendor during the most recent procurement cycle for the RBG3 assessment. The selection of i-Ready included a rigorous set of criteria that have been used to identify valid statewide assessments in recent years, and the Department believes that these will meet the criteria to be developed by the Department. Because this assessment has been determined to be valid, reliable, and standards-based, the i-Ready assessment may be approved as an additional assessment as soon as July 30, 2025, during a meeting of the State Board.

In order to support the use of i-Ready as a RBG3 assessment effective SY25-26, the Department shall present to the State Board:

- The criteria used to select the i-Ready assessment;
- A summary of the linking studies completed between MAP and i-Ready;
- A recommended cut score; and
- Data specifications for the reporting of results under the i-Ready assessment.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE AND NEXT STEPS

<i>Approximate Date</i>	<i>Task</i>
<i>July 30, 2025</i>	State Board will review the i-Ready assessment.
<i>August 2025</i>	State Board may approve the i-Ready assessment.
<i>October 2025</i>	Regulations Workshop for RBG3 Assessments
<i>January 2026</i>	Regulation Hearing for RBG3 Regulations
<i>February 2026</i>	NDE Opens LEA Submissions for Assessment Validations
<i>February – March 2026</i>	NDE reviews assessments and identifies linking studies
<i>March 2026</i>	NDE Publishes List of Eligible Assessments
<i>April 2026</i>	State Board determines cut scores for eligible assessments
<i>May 2026</i>	Legislative Commission passes RBG3 Regulations

CONCLUSION

As LEAs consider selecting alternate assessments or procuring new contracts, please review the timelines and requirements associated with such a selection. If your LEA is interested in engaging with a working group to develop the regulations and criterion identified in this memo, please submit your interest via the [Request for Engagement](#) form by August 1, 2025, selecting “Read by Grade Three Assessment”.

If an LEA is interested in utilizing the i-Ready assessment in SY25-26 (if approved by the State Board), the LEA must submit a declaration letter on letterhead, signed by the district and/or charter school leader, stating that:

- The LEA is electing to use the i-Ready assessment as their Read by Grade Three assessment in SY25-26;
- The LEA is responsible for all financial costs to administer the i-Ready assessment;
- The LEA will be required to comply with Department data and reporting requirements; and
- The number of students that will be using the i-Ready assessment in K-3.

Please submit this letter through the [i-Ready Assessment](#) form before the first day of instruction of SY25-26 for the LEA submitting this form. If you have any questions regarding this guidance, please reach out to Mandy Leytham at mandy.leytham@doe.nv.gov.

cc: Lisa Ford, Interim Deputy Superintendent for Student Achievement
Peter Zutz, Administrator, Office of Assessments, Data, and Accountability Management