



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

March 24, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education
FROM: Eric G. Mackey *EGM*
State Superintendent of Education
RE: Early Assessment Online Vendor Workshops

As the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) continues to adjust our local education agency (LEA) supports with the implementation of the *Alabama Literacy Act*, we realize implications from the COVID-19 virus may alter various timelines. However, we have identified an innovative model for LEAs to still have the opportunity to participate in the Alabama Early Reading and Math Assessment Vendor Workshop. This opportunity has been designed to provide a platform for vendors to present LEAs with information that may be beneficial as schools make their early reading **and** early math assessment system final selections by the May 8, 2020, deadline.

The following timeline will assist you in making your selections:

- April 6-10 – LEAs will have the opportunity to view vendor presentations utilizing links in the table below. Each presentation will last approximately 45 minutes.
- After viewing the presentations, use the following email address to submit questions for the vendors: eram@alsde.edu. Questions should be entered by the close of business on April 10.
- April 24 – ALSDE will post all responses to the questions by close of business.
- May 8 – LEAs should complete their early reading and math assessment options for each of your schools in the portal: [Early Reading and Math Assessment Selections](#).

| Company | Link |
|-----------------------|---|
| Amplify | https://go.info.amplify.com/mCLASS_Alabama_edition |
| Curriculum Associates | https://vimeo.com/399929947 |
| IStation | https://info.istation.com/alabama |
| NWEA | https://vimeo.com/400069350 |
| Pearson | https://www.brainshark.com/pearsonassessments/vu?pi=zGWzd1WUuzMU1Cz0 |
| Renaissance | https://renaissance.zoom.us/j/554502206?pwd=SXNMNTB2WTIheWtmZVN5S0VuMjFScz09 |

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Page 2
March 24, 2020

Once your selection is completed in the portal, the ALSDE will provide funding to your district based on your Grades K-3 ADM. At that point, LEAs should enter into a contract with the selected vendor and organize the needed professional development for teachers by June 24, 2020. All funds distributed to LEAs must be utilized for these K-3 early reading and math assessment systems and corresponding professional development.

This schedule will help to ensure that LEAs have time for the assessment programs implemented by the 2020-2021 school year. Not adhering to these deadlines could postpone the LEAs implementation of the *Alabama Literacy Act*. The ALSDE is committed to helping you make your selections by the deadline; however, we also understand that future changes may alter this schedule.

If there is an extenuating circumstance specific to your LEA, please contact Dr. Elisabeth Davis at edavis@alsde.edu or (334) 324-3574. While we are working through uncertain times, it is critical that LEAs do their best to adhere to these timelines. Since we do not know when schools will reopen, these tools have the capacity to provide LEAs with individualized diagnostic information to help educators with decisions in early reading and math, especially given the impact on instructional time during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for your willingness to join the ALSDE in our efforts to support every child, every chance, every day.

EGM/SL/KD

cc: Chief School Financial Officers
Grades K-3 Elementary Principals
Dr. Daniel Boyd
Mr. Andy Craig
Dr. Elisabeth Davis
Dr. Jeffery Langham
Dr. Tony Thacker
Dr. Sandy Ledwell
Mrs. Karen W. Porter
Mrs. Maggie Hicks

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