



E-message #4 – On-Track Measures: Grade 3 Reading/Grade 7 Mathematics Early Indicators

Re: Future Ready PA Index E-messages

Colleagues,

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) is committed to providing regular updates on the implementation of its recently approved [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\) Consolidated State Plan](#) and the Future Ready PA Index, a comprehensive, public-facing school progress report that increases transparency around school and student group performance. This e-message is the fourth in a series to provide timely information on the transition to the Future Ready PA Index.

As outlined in previous Future Ready PA Index updates, indicators fall into three main categories:

1. Statewide Assessment Measures
2. On-Track Measures
3. College and Career Ready Measures

This e-message provides additional details and support on Grade 3 Reading/Grade 7 Mathematics Early Indicators of Success. This on-track measure reflects research on the relationship between student knowledge and skills in these grades and content areas and future academic success. It is important to note that this indicator does not require additional testing on the part of schools; rather, it is intended to validate, through appropriate public reporting, existing measures, already in place and in use, that can broaden conceptions of student achievement beyond statewide assessment systems.

This year, LEAs will have the option to report data from locally-identified assessment systems for Grade 3 Reading/Grade 7 Mathematics Early Indicators of Success. In identifying an assessment system for this measure, LEAs must take basic steps to evaluate the quality and sufficiency of evidence to support the use of the assessment and interpretation of its results. In addition, to ensure comparability and fairness, all students in the grades 3 and 7 cohorts across the LEA must participate in the same assessment. For more information on these standards and assurances, please review the document sent to you via a PENN*LINK dated November 27, 2017, or via the following linked document: [Guidance for Evaluating Locally Selected Measures for Use in the Future Ready PA Index for Grade 3 Reading and Grade 7 Mathematics](#).

Regardless of whether a locally selected assessment is reported for these indicators, all public schools must continue to administer PSSA assessments in English Language Arts and Math in grades 3-8, consistent with ESSA requirements. These PSSA scores and associated growth measures will also be reported via the Future Ready PA Index.

Frequently asked questions about Grade 3 Reading/Grade 7 Mathematics Early Indicators of Success and associated answers appear below.

How will PDE report Grade 3 Reading/Grade 7 Mathematics Early Indicators of Success on the Future Ready PA Index dashboard?

PDE will report Grade 3 Reading and Grade 7 Mathematics for all public schools and for any student group of 20 or more students in a building. Results will be reported as a percentage of students who attain proficiency on the assessment.

How will data be reported and monitored?

LEAs choosing to use a locally-selected assessment are responsible for reporting and uploading individual student data into PIMS to report on-track performance in Grade 3 Reading and/or Grade 7 Mathematics. Data for this requirement will come from the Student Local Assessment Subtest, Row 19 (LEA On/Off Track Indicator), and the Accountability snapshots from the Student and School Enrollment templates.

What steps should guide selection and implementation of local assessment measures?

Stakeholder engagement and consultation with technical advisors suggests that most locally-selected assessment systems currently in operation will meet standard specifications for measurement quality. To further assist LEAs, please review the information shared in the following linked document: [Guidance for Evaluating Locally Selected Measures for Use in the Future Ready PA Index for Grade 3 Reading and Grade 7 Mathematics](#).

What measures will support accuracy in reporting this measure?

Locally-selected assessments must provide for accessibility features or accommodations that allow it to be used by a minimum of 95 percent of the students in each school. Superintendents/Chief School Administrators will verify the quality of the locally-selected assessment and the accuracy of data reported by signing the assurances included with the Accuracy Certification Statement provided during PIMS reporting.

Next week's Future Ready PA Index E-message will focus on the Career Readiness Benchmarks, one of six College and Career Measures contained within the Future Ready PA Index.

Questions or comments on the PA Future Ready Index can be sent to ra-edfuturereadypa@pa.gov. The information shared in this and other e-messages is available on [PDE's Future Ready PA Index website](#).

Thank you for your work on behalf of Pennsylvania's students, and for your partnership in implementing the Future Ready PA Index.

Sincerely,



Matthew S. Stem

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Pennsylvania Department of Education