

Parent Guide to **iReady Assessments** Fairfield Public Schools

Questions and Answers



March, 2016



What is the iReady assessment?

The iReady ‘diagnostic’ assessment is administered three times a year (fall, winter, spring) to all students in grades 1-8 and twice a year to Kindergarten students (winter and spring) as part of the district’s Scientific Research Based Intervention (SRBI) plan. iReady assessment is a tool that screens students across four domains:

- Algebra and Algebraic Thinking
 - Measurement and Data
 - Number and Operations
 - Geometry
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- Kindergarten focuses on foundational skills.

iReady is not a “high-stakes” test and the results are not factored into student grades. The iReady scores are just one piece of a student’s mathematics profile and are used in conjunction with many other mathematics assessments and performances. This guide will explain in more detail what an iReady assessment is.

What are computer-adaptive tests?

iReady is a computer-adaptive test (CAT). Computer-adaptive tests continually adjust the difficulty of each test by determining each question based on the previous response. If a student answers correctly, the difficulty level of the next item increases. If a student misses a question, the difficulty level of the next item decreases.

How long does it take to complete a iReady assessment?

iReady is designed to be as efficient as possible. On average, students will complete iReady in under 45 minutes for the primary grades and closer to an hour to 75 minutes in the intermediate grades. Some students may require more time and others less time.

What are iReady assessments used for?

The iReady assessment is used as a screening tool which means all students take the test under the same conditions three times a year. The assessments are used to measure student growth and identify students who may need support or follow up diagnostics.

iReady can also be used to monitor student growth throughout the year, and to estimate understanding of state standards. In addition, iReady can help teachers determine appropriate instructional areas and skills that a student is ready to learn. If a student is being progress monitored with iReady and receiving tiered intervention, it is important to notify parents as part of the SRBI protocols.

What is reported on the parent report?



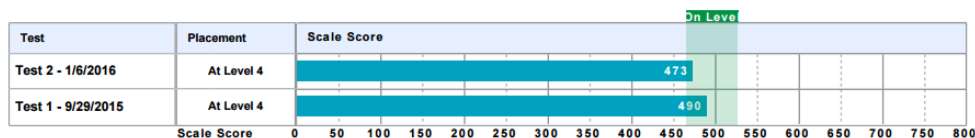
Parent Report for

Academic year: Current (2015-2016) School: (Math) Student: Test 2 - 01/06/16
 Select Students by: Class Class: Show:

What is i-Ready?

i-Ready is an online assessment program focused on reading and math. has recently taken the i-Ready assessment at school. This report gives you a snapshot of your child's performance.

Kirra's Overall Math Performance



Detail for Test 2 - 1/6/2016

		Kirra's Performance Levels
Domains	Overall Math Performance	At Level 4
	Number and Operations	At Level 4
	Algebra and Algebraic Thinking	At Level 4
	Measurement and Data	At Level 4
	Geometry	At Level 4

Scale Scores and Placement Levels

Scale Scores provide a single, consistent way to measure growth across grade levels and domains. You can use a scale score to compare a student's growth on different administrations of *i-Ready Diagnostic and Instruction*.

Placement Levels are used to guide instruction in the classroom. Placement levels are based on 's level of performance overall and on each subtest, and they describe the optimum instruction level. The four possible placement levels are:

- Above Level
- At Level
- Approaching Level
- Needs Improvement

See the following page for each kind of skill, or domain, assessed in *i-Ready Diagnostic*.

What is the scale score?

Scale scores measure what skills a student has mastered and estimates the skills to work on next. When looking at these scores, it's important to note that the first number in a scale score does not equate to a grade level. For example, a scale score in the 500s does NOT mean that a student's grade-level placement is fifth grade.

What is the performance level?

Performance Levels are provided for the overall performance and for each domain. **Placement Levels** – label helps teachers determine what grade level of skills to focus on with each student. It provides information on what the student can likely do, and what the student might benefit from learning next. Placement levels indicate where students should be receiving instruction based on a single assessment. It is imperative that teachers compare this data with other assessments and daily performance when making instructional decisions. iReady assesses common core standards in relation to the grade level. It does not indicate that a child's grade level should change, but it does have implications for differentiation.

iReady placement levels are associated with iReady instructional products that Fairfield Elementary Schools do not use.

The parent report also includes a breakdown of a student's performance for each domain. The descriptors are related to the scale score and are not child specific. It is important to compare the information provided with what the teacher knows about the student's daily performance.

What is percentile rank?

Norm Scores – identify how students are performing relative to national grade-level peers. For example, if a student’s percentile rank is 90%, this means the student scored better than or equal to 90% of her national peers from the same grade level.

What does it mean if a child’s score fluctuates?

With any standardized test, there is variation from the first to second administrations. This expected regression to the mean for students who score at the highest and lowest ranges of the assessment levels out as students take the test multiple times. Students may guess a question correctly and then the computer adaptive feature will adjust the level of the next question. As students take the test several times, this statistical variation steadies out and a trend line becomes clearer. iReady can detect when a student rushes in responding to questions. This often affects a student’s performance results.

Why are there multiple results on a student’s report?

A result is generated with every administration of the iReady diagnostic assessment. Below are some possible reasons:

- Students who rush through the test are indicated on the assessment. These students often re-take the test for a more accurate portrayal of her/his performance.
- Some teachers prefer the diagnostic assessment over the progress monitoring assessment in iReady.
- There can be discrepancies between what i-Ready reports and what the teacher knows about a student’s performance and the teacher may want to verify or glean more information with another administration of the assessment.

How will a parent know how their children are doing?

Teachers share an overall mathematics profile of the student at conferences. Parents will learn about many the assessments and day-to-day classroom math performance. iReady is just one data point in a broad collection of indicators and should not be the focus of the conference.

How can parents help their child prepare for an iReady assessment?

The teacher administering the assessment uses pre-assessment instructions to explain the assessment to students. It is important for parents to encourage their children to try their best on the assessment. Since iReady is a general measure of student ability in mathematics, students perform best on the assessment in the same way they perform best in school—when they have had plenty of rest, attend school regularly, and have eaten.

Please direct questions to the Math Science Teacher, Principal or the District Curriculum Leader.