

MEMO

To: All Elementary Principals, D. Santerre, L. Bonet, C. Goldsbrough, School Secretaries
From: Marian Lothian, Assistant Director of Education
CC: Ruth Ahern; Michel Dubeau, Paul Lamoureux; Joanne Jones
Date: 9/10/2009
Re: Literacy Assessments Schedule for 2009/10

Please ensure each teacher receives a copy of this memo and that the dates are reviewed at a staff meeting. Kindly call if you have any question or concerns.

NOTE:

1. The following **C 3.2** students are required to be assessed in the fall (a) students in the Primary kit, (b) students with TL=40 and Comprehension <20, and (c) students with TL=50 and Comprehension <18)
2. Teachers with Cycle 3 classes should begin the spring assessments early to minimize conflicts with C3.2 L.A., Math and French Épreuves.

Observation Survey

Will be required for this school year. All K students are to be assessed in term 3. Teachers are requested to advise the principal and the resource teacher of any student who is experiencing serious difficulty. If you require any support or advice with regards to this please contact Loretta Bonet or your assigned school Special Education Consultant. The spring results are to be submitted to the school board by June 4/10 along with the school's DRA results, schools enter all the data into GPI for the board's data collection. The Observation Survey results are also to be forwarded internally to the school's projected cycle 1.1 teachers to assist with student placement, formation of reading groups, & differentiated instruction.

The components of the Observation Survey to be used:

Concept of Print, Letter ID, Writing Vocabulary and Hearing Sounds in Words

Observation Survey

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Concept of Print, Letter ID, Writing Vocabulary and Hearing Sounds in Words

Cycle	Fall/08	GPI Entry Deadline	Spring/10	GPI Entry Deadline
Kindergarten	N/A	N/A	● All students	June 4/10

Developmental Reading Assessment

Cycle	Fall/08	GPI Entry Deadline	Spring/10	GPI Entry Deadline
Cycle 1.1	● All students	Oct. 23/09	● All students	June 4/10
Cycle 1.2	● All students	Oct. 23/09	● All students - Required info for School Success Plan-	June 4/10
Cycle 2.1	● All students	Oct. 23/09	● Students whose Fall scores were less than Text Level 38 with a Comprehension Level < 18 *	June 4/10
Cycle 2.2	● All students	Oct. 23/09	● All students - Required info for School Success Plan -	June 4/10
Cycle 3.1	● All students	Oct. 23/09	● All students in the Primary Kit . ● All students in the 4-8 Kit with a Comprehension Level < 18 *	June 4/10
Cycle 3.2	● All students in the Primary Kit . ● All students in the 4-8 Kit with a TL=40 & Comprehension Level < 20 ● All students in the 4-8 Kit with a TL=50 & Comprehension Level < 18	Oct. 23/09	n/a	n/a

* Note new changes:

- **The comprehension level required for student success is level 18.** This has been changed from level 20 as our data collection shows that level 18 is adequate. In the beginning we approached this critical component cautiously by keeping the comprehension level quite high but now that we have worked with the data, we are confident that we can reduce the accepted comprehension level to 18. This change will also reduce the testing load for teachers and students. *The one exception is the assessment of cycle 3.2 students who are reading significantly below level (TL =40), these students require a comprehension level of 20 as indicated in the above assessment chart.*

2009-2010 Assessment Schedule

- When submitting spring reports of students' DRA levels, the fall scores of successful students who were not re-tested in the spring **MUST** also be included in your June data submissions to the school board for year end analysis, otherwise your overall results are loaded negatively. This means that all students will have a DRA submission in June – those who were re-tested as per criteria set out in the assessment chart, those who successfully met the grade level expectations in the fall and all new students who entered during the year after the fall assessment.
- All new students must be evaluated. The combination of students entering throughout the year and teachers sometimes changing during the year, has resulted in some students being overlooked. Please ensure that we have accurate DRA levels for all students in the spring submission sent to the school board.

C1.1

- The demands of the DRA texts in Cycle 1.1 increase considerably in complexity from the beginning of the year to the end (see Text Characteristics outlined in Teacher's Resource Guide), hence all students are to be assessed.
- Previously, the accepted rate of performance for the fall assessment of cycle 1.1 students was the range of text levels 3 to 6. **Please note that the acceptable minimum range has been changed from 4 to 6.**
- Students performing below the entry levels of the DRA will be assessed using the Observation Survey.
- End of year results provide an opportunity to follow up with schools and plan support. DRA scores are important for the receiving C 1.2 teachers to plan instruction for their classes at appropriate levels.

C 2.1

- Students with a Text Level of 38 in the Fall do not need to be re-assessed in the Spring, however, a Comprehension Level of **18 or higher** must have been demonstrated in the Fall.
- Board data indicates that we have more work to do on Comprehension. "Adequate" comprehension (16,17,18) with a high text level may in fact suggest that the student can decode well but has not developed **strong** comprehension skills. It is the strength of the comprehension skills that assist students with understanding the more difficult content reading at Cycle 2.
- When submitting student names and scores in the spring, students who were successful in the fall and were not re-tested in the spring must be included in the spring results. In this case, these students' fall scores will be included with the other students' spring scores to complete the class profile of all students.

C2.2

- Please note that the C2.2 students should be assessed with the DRA 4-8 Kit whenever possible.

C3.1

- Please note that the C3.1 students should be assessed with the DRA 4-8 Kit whenever possible.
- Assessment required for **all students** in the fall. In the spring, only students who are still in the Primary kit or who are in the 4-8 kit with a comprehension <18 need to be assessed.
- When submitting student names and scores in the spring, students who were successful in the fall and were not re-tested in the spring must be included in the spring results. In this case, these students' fall scores will be included with the other students' spring scores to complete the class profile of all students.

C3.2

- Please note that the C3.2 students should be assessed with the DRA 4-8 Kit whenever possible.
- In the fall, students who continue to experience difficulty must be assessed so teachers can plan for instruction. This includes students who are still in the Primary kit, students in the 4-8 kit with a TL=40 and Comprehension <20 and students in the 4-8 kit with a TL of 50 and Comprehension < 18.