Inquiries and Responses to the RFQ Guidance: Using Vendor Assessments in the EVAAS System

Q: The guidance requires extended reports for third grade math and reading to use the state OAAs as the response variable, but this means a district cannot get third grade reports until the second year of testing. Is there any flexibility to allow a district to use the vendor's third grade Spring assessments in the first year of testing to allow reports to be generated immediately?

A: Yes. During the first year that a district is using a vendor's assessment, they may use the normed-Multivariate Response Model (MRM), which can generate third grade math and reading reports using the vendor's grade three Fall and Spring assessments. From the second year on, the vendor's prior year data must be combined with the third grade math and reading OAAs to generate reports using the regression-based Univariate Response Model (URM).

Q: One bullet on the guidance document states the third grade OAAs must be used as the response variable. Another bullet states that that the normed-MRM approach is preferred over the regression-based URM approach. Is there a way to use the MRM to get third grade reports using the OAAs as the response variable?

A: No. Whenever two different assessments are combined to generate a report, the URM approach is the only model that can be used. The normed-MRM is the preferred model for grades and subjects where it can be used, but in cases where it cannot be used, such as third grade math and reading, the regression-based URM should be substituted.