Waiver Application for Additional Approved K-3 Reading Diagnostic Assessment – Information and Vendor Responsibilities

Background

Under Ohio law, a provider that offers a reading diagnostic assessment approved under division (D)(1) of section 3301.079 of the Ohio Revised Code, as it existed prior to September 23, 2026, may apply to the Department for a waiver to permit school districts to use another reading diagnostic assessment offered by that provider.

Furthermore, an application for a waiver must be submitted in a form and manner prescribed by the Department. The department must approve a waiver application for a previously approved reading diagnostic assessment if it meets all criteria for diagnostic assessments under division (D)(1) of section 3301.079 of the Ohio Revised Code.

General Information

Each vendor that is granted a waiver by the Department will be responsible for all contracts with individual school districts, community schools, and STEM schools. The contracts between an approved vendor and districts shall not conflict with the terms and requirements outlined in this application. Selection denotes eligibility only. No contract with the Department, or any other entity, is implied by eligibility selection.

Applicants acknowledge that their submission is not guaranteed to be included on the approved diagnostic assessment list provided by the Department. Changes made to federal law or state law impacting the requirements for the Department's approved list of K-3 reading diagnostic assessments may affect the approved vendor's future eligibility.

Reservation of Rights

The Department reserves the right to:

- Reject any or all applications
- Withdraw the application at any time
- Disqualify any vendor for failing to conform to the requirements of the application

- During the application period, amend the application's specifications to correct errors or oversights or to supply additional information, as it becomes available
- During the application period, direct vendors to submit modifications addressing subsequent application amendments
- Change any of the scheduled dates
- Waive any requirements in this application
- Require clarification at any time during the application process and/or require correction of errors to assure a full and complete understanding of a vendor's application and/or to determine a vendor's compliance with the requirements of the application
- Prioritize evaluation and/or approval of certain submissions
- Request accurate and current estimates of vendor costs
- Post cost estimates for approved vendors on the Department's website
- Reevaluate approval or request other documentation during or after the approval process
- Evaluate and modify future processes for determining Department-approved assessment lists

Vendor Responsibilities Upon Waiver Approval

OVERVIEW OF SERVICES TO BE POSTED

If approved, each vendor must provide a public information summary of services for posting on the Department's website by completing the Assessment Information Form. The link to the form will be provided to vendors of approved assessments to submit this information online. Information about assessments and instruments under continued or multiyear approval will also be published online. A link will be provided to eligible vendors with their Application for Continued Approval.

COST INFORMATION

If approved, vendors will be asked to provide a link or other up-to-date contact information for use by districts in evaluating any costs associated with assessments under consideration for purchase. This information should be provided in the Assessment Information Form and will be published as part of the summary of services on the Department's website to inform districts as they evaluate their assessment options.

ADDITIONAL VENDOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The waiver to be included on the Department's Approved List of K-3 Reading Diagnostic Assessments is contingent upon satisfactory fulfillment of the following responsibilities:

- Submission of an annual report to the Department that includes, but is not limited to, the following: Names and IRN# of districts and community schools that use the assessment, percentage of students considered "on track" and "not on track" by

districts and community schools using the assessment during the school year (beginning of year, middle of year, and end of year), total number of K-3 students who were administered the assessment, total number of students within each district and school who used each assessment, and the predictive validity of the beginning-of-year scores and proficiency on Ohio's State Test for grade 3 English Language Arts
- Provision of written notification to the Department of any substantive changes to the assessment by Dec. 31 of each calendar year. Substantive changes include, but are not limited to, the following: Re-norming of the assessment; changes to composite scores, percentiles, or performance levels; changes to skills being assessed; changes to which subtests or skills used to calculate the composite score/percentile/performance level; changes to test administration mode
- Immediate disclosure to the Department in writing technical difficulties, security breaches, or issues encountered while administering the assessment to Ohio districts and schools
- Participation in all meetings requested by the Department
- Confirmation of assessment cut scores, percentiles, or performance levels before Dec. 31 of each school year
- Maintaining a satisfactory level of customer service and technical to Ohio districts and schools as determined by Department-administered surveys, focus groups, feedback from districts and schools, and other criteria determined by the Department
- Submission of a yearly assessment information form (supplied by Department) to ensure updated contact and cost information for districts
- Meeting all Department requests for information and reports in a timely manner

Failure to meet any of the responsibilities listed above may lead to revocation of the assessment's waiver approval by the Department.

Waiver Duration

Selection for a waiver to be approved as a K-3 reading diagnostic assessment extends until the release of a new request for qualifications and publication of the subsequent list, contingent on the following:

- No substantive changes to the assessment have occurred since the most recent approval
- No changes in legislation, law, regulation, or Department policy preclude continued approval
- No changes in content standards or performance standards, if applicable, have occurred since the assessment was most recently approved by the Department
- The vendor submits a yearly Application for Continued Approval
- The vendor submits a yearly Assessment Information Form (supplied by Department) to ensure updated contact and cost information for districts

Vendor participates in all requests for demonstrations, meetings, and onboarding from the Department. The rights reserved for the Department in the Reservation of Rights section of this application apply through the duration of the waiver. Vendors will have an opportunity to reapply or extend the waiver at the conclusion of the initial waiver period.