



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner of Education *Dianna R. Wentzell*

DATE: December 11, 2015

SUBJECT: Biennial Open Review Period for Universal Screening Reading Assessments, Grades K-3

As you are aware, universal screening measures are a critical component of a comprehensive, standards-aligned reading instructional program. Pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 10-14t, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is required to develop or approve reading assessments for use by districts that identifies K-3 students who are below proficiency in reading.

In July 2014, the Connecticut State Department of Education identified research-based assessments that met standards for technical rigor and efficiency, and published the *Approved Menu of Research-based Grades K-3 Universal Screening Reading Assessments* (Attachment A). At that time, the State Board of Education (SBE) agreed to a biennial "open review period" to consider adding additional assessments to the menu.

The first review process will begin in March of 2016, and occur every other year thereafter. The enclosed document, *Guidelines for Biennial Open Review Period for Universal Screening Reading Assessments: Grades K-3* (Attachment B) provides information for selecting, reviewing, and submitting assessment recommendations and supporting documents to the CSDE for consideration. If the SBE approves any of the proposed K-3 reading assessments during the 2016 review period, those assessments will be included in the January 2017 publication of K-3 reading assessments for use in the following school year.

Any concerns or questions about the guidelines for the open review period may be directed to Joanne R. White, Education Consultant at joanne.white@ct.gov or 860-713-6751.

DRW:jw
Enclosures