

## Screening, Diagnostic, and Outcome Assessment Information

The project will use valid and reliable screening assessments, diagnostic assessments, and outcome assessments to evaluate the effectiveness of the supplemental literacy intervention.

*Screening Reading Assessments*—The grade 8 reading ISAT and grade 8 ACT-EXPLORE® will be used as reading difficulties screening measures to identify grade 8 struggling readers who would benefit from supplemental reading intervention at the grade 9 level.

ISAT is the Illinois state assessment and is a reliable and valid screening reading assessment of vocabulary development with words in isolation and in context; reading comprehension strategies, such as inferencing, summarizing, sequencing, drawing conclusions, and interpreting instructions and the author's purpose; and literary elements, such as story structure, characterization, literary terms, and interpreting a variety of literary works. ISAT includes norm- and criterion-referenced items; the norm-referenced items are abbreviated from the Stanford 10 Reading Assessment developed by Pearson, Inc. The grade 8 reading ISAT includes multiple-choice and extended-response item formats. The grade 8 reading ISAT includes four strands: vocabulary development, reading strategies, reading comprehension, and literature. The test is administered annually in three 45- to 55-minute sessions. Scores are reported for four performance categories: academic warning, below standards, meets standards, and exceeds standards. Adequate reliability and validity have been established for the grade 8 reading ISAT.

State assessment data indicate a dramatic decrease in reading achievement scores between the grade 8 ISAT and the grade 11 Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE). Therefore, the grade 8 ACT-EXPLORE® reading test will be administered to all grade 8 students in the participating school districts to ensure that all below-level readers are identified for possible assignment to the grade 9 intervention. The grade 8 ACT-EXPLORE® will be used to assess a

student's ability to understand written materials from different school subjects. Reading skills measured by the 30-question test include referring to details in the passage, drawing conclusions, and making comparisons and generalizations.

*Diagnostic Reading Assessments*—The GMRT<sup>®</sup>, which measure reading achievement in grades K-12 and have been deemed appropriate for use with the Striving Readers program, will be used to diagnose reading difficulties. GMRT<sup>®</sup> may be used for identifying student reading skills and needs and for monitoring student progress in pre-reading and reading skills. GMRT<sup>®</sup> is used to place students in remedial or accelerated reading programs, to evaluate the reading programs, and as an aid in advising students and monitoring their progress.

The GMRT<sup>®</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Edition will be administered online at the beginning and end of grade 9 for each cohort of students. For the Illinois Striving Readers Project, three scores will be used for diagnostic purposes: vocabulary, comprehension, and total score.

*Outcome Assessments*—Student performance on the GMRT<sup>®</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Edition and on the reading assessment portions of ACT-EXPLORE<sup>®</sup> (grade 9), ACT-PLAN<sup>®</sup> (grade 10), and ACT<sup>®</sup> (grade 11) will be used as the outcome measures for student reading achievement.

The GMRT<sup>®</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Edition is a general assessment of reading achievement. The psychometric qualities of the test, including evidence of reliability and validity, are well documented in a 2002 technical report. Alternate form reliability coefficients for test levels appropriate for grades 6-8 range from 0.82 to 0.91. K-R 20 estimates of reliability range from 0.90 to 0.95 (MacGinitie, et al, 2002). The test was renormed during the 2005-2006 school year. A variety of score types is available to support analysis and interpretation: extended scale scores, percentiles, Normal Curve Equivalents (NCEs), stanines, and grade equivalents. The evaluators will work with the schools to ensure appropriate administration of the test.

The assessment system used by ISBE to measure adequate yearly progress includes ISAT in grades 3-8 and the PSAE at grade 11. The reading assessment portion of the PSAE is the ACT<sup>®</sup> reading subtest.

In addition to the required PSAE at grade 11, the participating school districts will administer the reading assessment portions of ACT-EXPLORE<sup>®</sup> at grade 9 during intervention implementation years. As components of the ACT<sup>®</sup> testing system, EXPLORE<sup>®</sup>, PLAN<sup>®</sup>, and ACT<sup>®</sup> measure student educational development in the same subject areas and student performance on one test relates to student performance on the other components. ACT-EXPLORE<sup>®</sup> serves as the entry point into the testing system. Based on a sample of more than 350,000 students, the reading scale scores on ACT-EXPLORE<sup>®</sup> were found to correlate 0.68 with the ACT<sup>®</sup>. Reliability estimates for the ACT-EXPLORE<sup>®</sup> reading assessment range between 0.83 and 0.89.