

To: ALL LEAS (Superintendents, Building Principals, Curriculum Coordinators, and PIMS Administrators)

From: Matthew S. Stem, Deputy Secretary
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

Date: November 27, 2017

Re: *Locally Selected On-Track Assessment Guidance Documents*

Dear Colleague,

A key initiative of Pennsylvania's State Consolidated ESSA plan is the Future Ready PA Index—Pennsylvania's public-facing school report card to be operationalized in Fall, 2018. The Index is a system of school performance measures that moves beyond point-in-time achievement and values schools' efforts to help all students learn, grow, and succeed in the classroom and beyond.

To help balance the emphasis on state assessments with localized assessments schools are using in their current instructional practice, the Future Ready PA Index will include an On-Track Indicator to measure student progress in early literacy acquisition and advancement in mathematics.

Research indicates that students who have acquired grade-level reading skills by third grade have a greater probability of achieving success in school. Students must shift their focus from "learning to read" to "reading to learn." Equally, certain skills must be demonstrated in mathematics to show that students are on a pathway to success. Proficiency in seventh grade mathematics is a prerequisite for Algebra I. Students must demonstrate an ability to move from concrete to abstract understandings to build a strong foundation for success in high school.

The attached Locally Selected On-Track Assessment Guidance Document is the second of several communications that will offer guidance on the indicators included in the Future Ready PA Index. This document, in conjunction with the PIMS technical manual, is intended to provide administrators with the information necessary to select and report a local assessment if they choose to do so.

LEAs in need of technical assistance with on-track or proficiency assessment should contact the Bureau of Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction at RA-EDFUTUREREADYPA@pa.gov or 717-525-5057. For PIMS application support, please call 1-800-661-2423.

Thank you for your dedication to shaping the futures of Pennsylvania's students.

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