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GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM #17-31

TO: Nevada School District Superintendents

FROM: Steve Canavero, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Kindergarten Entry Assessment: Brigance Screen III

The Nevada State Board of Education has approved Curriculum Associates Brigance Screen III to be utilized as the Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA). This screening also serves as the first assessment requirement of the Read by Grade 3 regulations. Requiring the Brigance Screen III and Northwest Evaluation Association MAP Reading Assessment is part of the Department's strategy to align existing assessments across all early childhood programs (birth – grade 3).

The purposes for screening children at kindergarten are:

- Determine the percentage of children arriving to school “ready”
- Provide teachers information about children’s abilities that could help inform instruction and support
- Provide families information and involve them in decisions about their children’s education
- Compare readiness of children that participated in different early childhood settings to target resources and improve quality and access to high quality programs.

Beginning the 2017/18 school year, kindergarten screening is to be completed (no earlier than) 15 calendar days prior to the start of school or within 30 instructional days of the start of the school year. After the initial KEA screening, children will be assessed at the winter and spring benchmarks using the MAP Reading Assessment. This new standardized system of early reading assessment will give rise to a common literacy framework across Nevada; one that will fuel discussion and practice that can only generate a stronger understanding of early reading foundations (for educators and families).

Read by Grade 3 regulations require screening for all children with 30 days of enrollment. For children who enroll and begin kindergarten after the initial 30th instructional day; therefore not screened as part of the KEA, districts may choose to administer the Brigance Screen III to meet this requirement or administer another screening of their choosing.

For the KEA, districts are required to enter a child’s total raw score into Infinite Campus. The Department is currently working on developing the Brigance KEA assessment template in Campus State Edition and it will be published to the District Editions when completed. Additional information on importing and entering scores will be distributed by SAIN Support and available on the Bighorn portal at that time. While not required, NDE understands some Districts have purchased access to the Curriculum Associates Online Management System; for that reason there are two methods that will be available to enter the scores into Infinite Campus:

1. Scores can be entered into Curriculum Associates Online Management System, extracted from the OMS as a CSV file and then upload to Campus as a CSV file using the “Score Import Wizard.” The import file must contain the student’s “State ID” from Campus.
2. Districts that do not purchase access to the Online Management System can enter the scores directly into the student’s records in Infinite Campus.

Based on the cut scores below, the Department is recommending two strategies once screening has been completed:

1. Notify all families the purpose of the screening and their child’s screening results.
2. For families whose child’s score falls into the below average range, provide written notification and additional information as a first step to establishing a progress monitoring plan as outlined in Nevada’s Read by Grade 3 program. Districts should use this as an opportunity to provide families additional information and referrals to services when applicable.

**Brigance Screen III Kindergarten Cut Scores
Based on Raw Score and Child’s Age on Date of Screening**

Age	Below Average	Average	Above Average
4-8 through 4-11	<71	71-92	>92
5-0 through 5-5	<61	61-88	>88
5-6 through 5-11	<70	70-91	>91
6-0 through 6-5	<68	68-88	>88
6-6+	<86	86-96	>96

For questions or for more information, please contact Patti Oya at poya@doe.nv.gov

