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August 6, 2019

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, District Test Coordinators

**FROM:** Gwen Perea Warniment, PhD, Deputy Secretary of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment

**RE:** Istation Training Dates and Locations, Kindergarten Istation Scores

**Istation Training Dates and Locations**

In order to support districts and charter schools in improving reading outcomes for all New Mexico students, the PED is offering training on the Istation Indicators of Student Progress (ISIP) early literacy assessment during the coming months.

Two "Getting Started with Istation" webinars for new users or those who would like a refresher are offered on August 22 at 3:00 PM and August 28 at 10:00 AM. To register, please visit [Getting Started with Istation](#).

Onsite trainings in Assessment Literacy for All are offered in seven locations around the state in September. Two repeat, three-hour sessions are offered at each location, one from 8:30 to 11:30 AM and one from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.

As a result of this course, educators will be able to

- incorporate and communicate the purpose of ISIP and the value of formative data;
- understand how to use ISIP data alongside the Common Core State Standards;
- attain insight on adequate student growth and set goals to sustain student, classroom, campus, and district gains;
- articulate student goals and needs to any audience: parents, MTSS planning, and making informed instructional decisions at the class, grade, campus, and district levels;
- drive professional learning community dialogues and instructional decisions based on formative data; and

- formulate and execute a plan for implementation with fidelity to maximize student growth.

Objectives will be achieved utilizing engaging hands-on activities, analyzing real-time data, and showcasing success from districts across the state that will share exemplars of campus and parent assessment literacy and plans of action.

To register for these trainings, please go to [Istation: Assessment Literacy for All](#).

### **Kindergarten Istation Scores**

During the 2018–19 school year, PED and Istation analysts became aware that in a few rare cases, some high-achieving kindergarten students were not showing ISIP scores that accurately reflected their growth in literacy. It was determined that this happened because, as students reach a certain level of proficiency, new ISIP subtests may be presented. Some kindergarten students, who were presented with a higher level subtest for the first time, saw a drop in scores as they acclimated to that subtest.

To avoid lower scores in the end-of-year (EOY) benchmark month, no new subtests were introduced to students in the May administration of ISIP.

To resolve the issue for the 2019–20 school year, Istation is introducing a “safety net” for students who receive a new subtest so that a lower score on the newly introduced subtest will not adversely affect the overall ISIP score for that student.

### **Testing Requirements and Test Windows**

ISIP is administered to all students in Kindergarten through grade 2 statewide, to students in Kindergarten through grade 3 in Reading Achievement Math & School Culture (RAMS) schools, and students in grades Kindergarten through grade in K-5 Plus schools.

The assessment must be administered to these grades in benchmark months: August or September (depending on the month chosen by the district) for beginning-of-year (BOY), January for middle-of-year (MOY), and May for EOY.

For questions about Istation, please contact the Istation Customer Success department at [support@istation.com](mailto:support@istation.com) or 1-866-883-READ (7323), or contact Dr. Brigitte Russell, Deputy Director of Assessment, PED at (505) 827-6528 or [Brigitte.Russell2@state.nm.us](mailto:Brigitte.Russell2@state.nm.us).

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