

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Melissa Murphy, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services

CC: Dr. Jeff Schuler

DATE: May 11, 2022

SUBJECT: FastBridge Assessment System

This memo provides an overview of the FastBridge assessment for reading and math that will serve as the district interim assessment for grades K-8 starting the 2022-23 school year. FastBridge was selected as the district's interim assessment by a committee of teachers and administrators after a review of various assessment products this year. FastBridge will replace the current district assessment from Achievement Series.

What is FastBridge?

The Formative Assessment System for Teachers (FAST) is a set of reading and math assessments that teachers use to measure student learning. FastBridge scores help teachers to know what kind of teaching each student needs to help them grow, both individually and as part of the whole class. The reading and math tests in grades 2-8 adapt to the student's ability level rather than simply assessing grade-level content. In grades K-1 the assessment measures essential early reading and math skills.

FastBridge also includes a progress monitoring system. Progress monitoring is used to measure students' rate of improvement and determine whether targeted instruction and interventions should be maintained, modified, or intensified to close achievement gaps. The progress monitoring system has been used by D200 specialists since 2018.

How does it support the Vision 2026 Academic Excellence Strategy: *design and implement a balanced assessment system?*

A balanced assessment system contains a variety of ways to collect information about what a student knows. This means that assessments at all levels, from classroom to state, work together to provide a variety of evidence to support educational decision-making. FastBridge will serve as the district's interim assessment. An interim assessment is given three times a year and intended to predict performance for the end of the year and measure growth over time.

When will FastBridge be administered?

FastBridge will be administered three times a year during the fall, winter, and spring. All schools will administer the assessment in a common testing window.

How will data be used by the school district and building?

FastBridge data will be used in multiple ways such as:

- Assist in identifying students in need of support beyond Tier I
- Measure student achievement and growth over time
- Evaluate program impact
- Identify what a student knows and what concepts teachers must focus on to ensure grade-level performance
- Analyze growth and achievement by demographic groups

How will results be reported to parents?

Parents will receive FastBridge results after each testing session. D200 is working to make this information available in ParentVue after each testing session.

How will data be reported on the district dashboard and reported to the Board of Education?

FastBridge data will be reported annually to the Board of Education. The data reported will be from the spring testing session. Both achievement and growth data will be reported on the Vision 2026 dashboard. Achievement data will be reported by the grade level bands of K-1, 2-5, and 6-8.