

Districtwide Biennial Assessment Plan Update

Presented to the School Board on April 15, 2026

“We assess not to
label, but to launch”.



Tonight's Agenda

01 What's a Biennial Assessment Plan?

Why we review and update it every two years

02 Guiding Principles

The three criteria driving every decision

03 What's Changing

Grade-by-grade walkthrough of all the changes

04 What's Staying the Same

State tests and student supports remain intact

05 Next Steps

Implementation timeline and family communication

06 Questions?

Your opportunity to ask and respond

Purpose of This Update

“Streamline the assessment system to reduce testing time, align with the Minnesota READ Act, and clarify the role of each assessment within our instructional framework.”

1 Follow State Law

Maintain all state assessment requirements, including the Minnesota READ Act screening mandates for early grades.

2 Reduce Redundancy

Remove assessments that overlap with others or do not directly inform classroom instruction.

3 Keep What Works

Retain assessments used to identify students who may need additional reading, math, or language support.

What's Changing: Early Elementary (K–2)

ADDING

K–1 (Gr. 2 in 2026–27) | Oral Language Screener

Required by the Minnesota READ Act.

A one-minute sentence repetition task that checks how well students understand and produce spoken language. Administered universally in fall for grades K and 1; grade 2 screened as needed beginning 2026–27.

ADJUSTING

K–1 | Early Numeracy Screening Schedule (Fastbridge)

Kindergarten: Fastbridge numeracy screening 3 times per year (fall, winter, spring).

Grade 1: Fastbridge in fall only. iReady provides math data 3 times per year for ongoing instruction.

Result: Reduces testing frequency for first graders without reducing instructional data.

What's Changing: Upper Elementary (Gr. 2 & 4–5)

ADDING | Grades 4–5

Capti as Screener and Diagnostic Tool

- Fastbridge aReading stays in place.
- All grades 4–5 students take Capti in fall and winter.
- **Gated testing:** only students flagged in fall and winter will need to take in spring. Not every student is re-assessed.
- **More targeted:** extra assessment time is directed only toward students who need it most.

REMOVING | Grade 2

CogAT Removed from Universal Screening

- **Why removed:**
- High cost and significant instructional time. Redundant
- **Gifted students will still be identified and flexibly grouped to access enrichment activities.**
- We will continue to use multiple-measures including, teacher input, performance data, and other indicators.

What's Changing: Secondary (Gr. 6–12)

READING

STAR Reading (6–12) → Capti ReadBasix (MDE Integrated Screening)

- Capti ReadBasix administers all 6 reading subtests, providing richer Tier 1, 2, and 3 diagnostic data.
- **Grades 6–12:** assessed 2 times per year (Sept/Oct and Dec/Jan)
- **Grades 11–12:** screened as needed for students with reading needs or new students without sufficient reading data

MATH

STAR Math (6–9, 10–12 as needed) → New Curriculum-Aligned Math Screener

- Replacement tool will align with the secondary math curriculum adopted in Spring 2026.
- **NEW (Spring 2026 adoption):** Savvas Momentum Math
- Aligning the screener to the adopted curriculum means teachers can translate assessment data directly into instructional decisions.

What's Staying the Same

State-Required Assessments

All Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) and other state-required tests remain unchanged.

Gifted and Talented Identification

We will continue identifying students for gifted services using multiple-measures. Only the CogAT tool is removed, not the program.

Instructional Role of Assessments

Screeners and diagnostics are not used to calculate grades. They exist to support instruction and aid students in their learning.

Student Support Identification

Every assessment used to identify students needing reading, math, or language support continues. The safety net stays in place.

Family Data Access

Families continue to receive performance data. iReady, Capti, and other tools all produce reports teachers can share at conferences or on request.

Commitment to All Learners

The district's commitment to students with disabilities, English learners, advanced learners, and all others is unchanged.

Summary of Changes At-a-Glance

Grade(s)	Change	Assessment	What It Means
K–1 (Gr. 2 in 2026–27)	ADD	Oral Language Screener	READ Act required; 1-min sentence repetition task; universal in fall
K–Gr. 1	ADJUST	Early Numeracy Schedule	Kindergarten 3x/yr; Grade 1 fall only; iReady 3x/yr after
Gr. 4–5	ADD	Capti-READBasix	All students in fall; only some in the winter and spring
Gr. 4 & Gr. 7	ADJUST	STAMPse — World Language	Determines proficiency in the immersion partner language across reading, writing, listening, and speaking; administered in spring
Gr. 2	REMOVE	CogAT	Costly and time-intensive; Gifted & Talented team uses multiple measures; determined redundant
Gr. 6–12	REPLACE	STAR Reading → Capti ReadBasix	6 subtests in one session; richer diagnostic data for all content-area teachers, Tiers 1–3
Gr. 6–9 (10–12 as needed)	REPLACE	STAR Math → Aligned Tool (TBD)	Aligned with new secondary math curriculum; Savvas Momentum Math planned Spring 2026 adoption

Next Steps

01	<i>Spring 2026</i> Secondary Math Curriculum Selection	Secondary math curriculum announced (Spring 2026). Math screener finalized to align with adopted curriculum.
02	<i>Summer 2026</i> Staff Professional Development	Training for all new tools including Capti ReadBasix. Testing windows finalized and shared with school buildings.
03	<i>Before Fall 2026</i> Family Communication	Families receive clear information about what tests their child will take, when, and what results mean.
04	<i>Fall 2026</i> Implementation Begins	All 2026–27 changes go into effect
05	<i>Ongoing</i> Monitoring and Reporting	District will report on implementation impact and any adjustments needed in ongoing assessment reporting.

Questions?

We welcome your questions and feedback.
Every student in our district is affected by this plan.

Questions after tonight?

Contact Donna.Roper@isd742.org