

Memorandum

To: Formative, Interim, and Benchmark Assessment Program Vendors
From: Dr. Charity Flores, Director of Student Assessment
Re: 2021-2022 Indiana Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant Guidance Part 1
Date: October 15, 2020

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) administers Indiana's Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant. This grant provides funds to Indiana public, charter, and accredited nonpublic schools for the purchase of assessments that provide data for remediation and differentiated instruction. Indiana Code 20-32-5.1-17 requires assessment programs to meet certain criteria in order to be approved for use with these funds.

The Indiana General Assembly meets January through April 2021, and changes to the code governing this grant are possible. In order to facilitate an appropriate program approval timeline, the IDOE publishes this "Part 1" guidance to assessment program vendors. If any changes are made to this Indiana Code during the 2021 Legislative Session, IDOE will publish "Part 2" guidance to address those changes as necessary.

All vendors seeking approval for school year 2021-2022 are required to participate in the approval process. Two approval processes are available: (1) an abbreviated process for assessment programs which were approved for school year 2020-2021 and (2) the full approval process for all other assessment programs. The published [Assessment Program Approval Process](#) provides specific step-by-step directions for vendors in either of these categories.

Vendors who wish to submit for approval for school year 2021-2022 must understand and adhere to the following:

- All vendors must submit documentation for approval per the published approval process.
- All vendors wishing to participate must submit a letter of intent by December 31, 2020. The letter of intent does not bind a vendor to submit, but indicates that submission is intended. **Only programs which submit a letter of intent by December 31, 2020, will be reviewed.** The letter should include the vendor name, any assessment program names that are intended for submission, acknowledgement of the published process, and agreement to follow the published process.
- All vendors must submit documentation between **January 1 and April 7, 2021**, to be considered for approval for the 2021-2022 school year.
 - Vendors wanting an opportunity to respond to feedback must submit by March 3, 2021. **No additional documentation will be accepted after April 7, 2021.**

- If updated “Part 2” guidance is required based on the 2021 Legislative Session, IDOE will publish an additional deadline to give assessment vendors time to respond, as needed.
- The IDOE does not work directly with vendors in any type of iterative process intended to culminate in approval. It is the vendor’s responsibility to supply a quality product and submit documentation verifying that quality to the IDOE if they wish to be included for approval through this process.

The IDOE anticipates changes to schools’ allowable uses of funds for school year 2021-2022. Allowable uses of funds are likely to be reduced to focus much more closely on the list of approved assessment programs and their related products.

Please direct any questions that you have to Mary Williams, Senior Assessment Specialist (mwilliams@doe.in.gov, 317-234-5602), or the Office of Student Assessment (INassessments@doe.in.gov).