

To: Corporation Test Coordinators

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Subject: Instruction and Assessment Considerations for 2020-2021

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) offers the following instructional and assessment guidance for the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

- Instruction must align to grade-level content standards. There is much debate about meeting students at the anticipated gaps. However, the focus needs to remain on grade-level content and differentiating further from those content expectations (Sawchuk, 2020).
- Summative assessments should be reserved for the end of units, courses or school year.
  - Formative and interim measures offer the best insight into where students are performing and how to meet their needs.
  - IDOE offers the Formative Assessment Grant to schools annually as a resource aligned to the Indiana Academic Standards. Approved providers go through a review process to confirm their assessments meet alignment and quality criteria. Additional details are available [here](#).
- IDOE offers many resources for schools to consider when planning for the start of the 2020-2021 school year.
  - **Lexile® and Quantile® Measures**  
IDOE and MetaMetrics collaborated to help schools anticipate potential achievement amid curricular demands once schools reopen by estimating students' projected Lexile and Quantile measures. Further information about these sessions is available [here](#).
  - **Tools for Teachers**  
Tools for Teachers is a free formative assessment resource provided to all Indiana teachers during the 2020-2021 school year. The site will deploy in September with training and resources from IDOE. A preview is available [here](#).