STAR Early Literacy
1-2 Teacher's Guide and Protocol

Standard: **CCSS Reading Standards Foundational Skills for K-5**. Please refer to the specific standards for your grade level in your Common Core binder.

Reference Materials:

> Renaissance Learning STAR Early Literacy Training Video (Available at renlearn.com)
> STAR Early Literacy Pretest Instructions (Available at Renaissance Place -> STAR Early Literacy->Resources->Pretest Instructions.
> STAR Early Literacy Followup (Available at elemlibrary.chicousd.org. Click on Renaissance Place Support and then Early Literacy)

Directions: STAR Early Literacy will be an optional assessment for the 2013-2014 school year. It is recommended all 1st and 2nd graders take STAR Early Literacy. Once a student is identified in STAR Early Literacy as a "Probable Reader", they are presumed to be capable, independent readers. It is recommended that once a student reaches the Literacy Classification "Probable Reader" that they then be given the STAR Reading assessment. Students who move on to STAR Reading may also make good candidates for beginning the Accelerated Reader program. Once students move onto STAR Reading, Early Literacy is no longer necessary unless there is specific data you wish to continue to gather through Early Lit. It is recommended all 2nd grade teachers begin assessing all students on Early Literacy at the beginning of the year, move "Probable Readers" to the STAR Reading assessment as necessary, and then assess ALL students on STAR Reading during the 2nd Trimester testing window.

Phase 1: Prepping for Administration: In this phase, determine the available technology and best methods to assess your students.

- **Review Reference Materials** (above)
- **Gather Student Usernames and Passwords:** Login and click on the **Renaissance Place tab** -> **Personnel, Students and Parents** -> **View Students**. **Select your class** in the drop down list on the right and **click Search**. Click the **Passwords** tab. Click on the **VIEW PDF** link and you can **print that report**.
- **Determine method for administering the test that works for your class.** Consider: Number of working computers with headphones, supervision, and support for testing group. It is recommended you test in very small groups during your first administration of the test and then adjust as you and students become more familiar with the assessment. A second adult to directly supervise the assessment or assist with the rest of the class is strongly recommended.
- **Review Pretest Instructions with Students.** The Pretest Instructions provide excellent tips for preparing students to take the assessment.
- **Have the monitor password for your site.** This will need to be entered before students access the test questions. The monitor password is usually the default "admin" but check your site's main Renaissance support person in case your site has changed this.

Phase 2: Administering the Assessment: In this phase, you will administer the assessment during the district's assessment window. You may retest students at any time you wish during the year for ongoing assessment/intervention purposes.

- Check computers and headphones for operability.
- Have student usernames and passwords at the ready.
- In small groups, logon the student to Renaissance Place. You can find the link on the desktop of most district machines. You can also access Renaissance from your school site's Library page. Enter the students' username, password for them.
- **Access STAR Early Literacy.** You will find the Renaissance Place link at your school website's Library Page. Login with the student's username and password. Once logged into **Renaissance Place**, the student will need to be directed to **STAR Reading** -> **Take a Test**. Press **START**. You will likely be prompted for the **Monitor Password** to begin. This password is usually "admin" unless changed by someone at your site.
- **Student Testing.** Students will then begin to independently take the assessment. The first step will be a short Hands-On Exercise. These initial questions are to assure that students can hear the test, and that they can perform basic mouse movements and answer selections appropriately. Once the Hands-On Exercise is complete, the actual assessment will begin. Students will be given approximately 27 questions. Since the test is computer-adaptive, questions will be progressively easier or harder depending on the students' performance. If you need to pause or stop a test, press CTRL+A to "abort". You can opt to Resume Later and the student will pick up where he left off or Stop Test which will delete the test. You will need the Monitor Password (usually "admin") to complete this transaction.

Phase 3: Use the Data. STAR Early Literacy data can be used in a number of ways. It provides important data about individual students, groups, or your class as a whole. The data will include performance on a large number of skill sets in literacy and numeracy domains. It will help you determine which skill sets where your students are proficient and those that require class reteaching or support in intervention. It also quickly identifies, using a Literacy Classification, a student's progress toward independent reading. There are a multitude of ways to look at STAR Early Literacy data, and you are encouraged to explore the various reports to determine what data tools best meet your classroom needs. Please see the document STAR Early Literacy Followup for recommendations for getting started with using STAR Early Literacy reports and data.