

# Assessments and Research

August 2018

## Accessing Applications

All applications are to be accessed using the district Rapid ID portal. Use the URL: portal.usd259.net. Enter your district username on the first screen and your district password on the second screen. A screen with tiles representing various applications will be available to select the application you wish to use. Select the tile to enter the application. Some applications may require authentication of your password. Students and staff are to access all applications through the portal address.

## Cognos: Teacher Dashboards

Teachers have access to their students' data through the Cognos Data Dashboard. Use the Rapid ID portal to access Cognos by selecting the IBM Cognos icon tile.

Once in Cognos, enter the application by selecting the Team Content folder (folder with 2 people), select Students, then select Teacher Dashboard. Data for your students is displayed and available through a variety of drill through reports by clicking the hyperlinks and selecting reports from the report drop down menu in the upper right hand corner of the dashboard screen. Navigate among screens by selecting or closing the tabs at the top of the page.

If a report is selected and nothing downloads or opens, a pop-up blocker is most likely the cause. Disable the pop-up blocker to resolve this issue. A handout for accessing Cognos as well as activities to help teachers become familiar with Cognos are available at the district website: Departments > Assessments and Research > Resources.

## Grants

We are re-establishing actively pursuing grants that align with the district's strategic plan. We welcome Holly Wilson, Grant Administrator and Kim Roskam, Grant Writer to the department.

We will provide regular and relevant information as we get up and running. Watch for information on our website.

## Using Assessments Data

Student data is provided in Cognos. School and district state assessment (KAP) data is preliminary. It is critical to understand KSDE has made a change in it's original statements regarding KAP performance levels considered as proficient. Levels 3 and 4 indicate students able to work consistently at their grade level standards. Level 2 students do not work consistently at their grade level and Level 1 students are not working at their grade level. The state data is to be used at the district and school levels to evaluate the implementation of curriculum and the rigor of instruction. Use school and grade level data to evaluate and adjust standards based instruction and student work expectations accordingly.

Correlations using the district screener and state assessment data show the adaptive screeners to be strong predictors of state assessment performance. aReading and aMath are most closely aligned to KAP measures because they are screening skills related to the grade level standards. See the FastBridge Individual Skills reports after screening.

With the use of spring screening data to immediately begin intervention instruction, teachers should focus on students' rates of improvement (ROI). Schools will measure growth from spring to spring to determine the effectiveness of intervention instruction. Ensure regular monitoring to make adjustments for ambitious growth with students indicated at 'some' and 'high' risk.

Administer the QPS diagnostic to any high risk student on the reading screeners (Group 3). The district QPS is an application that is available through the Rapid ID portal.

## Dynamic Learning Map Assessments

For schools with categorical programs that administer DLM assessments, there is a new protocol for submitting the DLM form that involves district staff. The first administration timeframe is tentatively set from Sept. 25—Dec. 7. Contact Scott Dellinger if you have any questions.