



SOUTH KINGSTOWN SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

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Dear Parent or Guardian,

South Kingstown School Department has recently adopted STAR Assessments for grades K-11. This includes a computer-adaptive universal screening assessment for all students three times per year in early literacy (Grades K-1), reading and math (Grades 2-11). Computer-adaptive assessment will continually adjust the difficulty of each student's test by choosing each question based on the student's previous response. STAR assessments are designed to be as efficient as possible. The approximate time to administer the three universal screenings per year is less than three hours per student.

This screening measure provides a wealth of actionable data. It tells us which students are succeeding or struggling, who needs intervention, who needs enrichment, how likely students are to meet standards and reach proficiency on state tests, and whether the curriculum and interventions we are implementing are making a difference. In addition, STAR can also help teachers determine appropriate instructional levels and skills that students are ready to learn.

Because important district decisions will be made, in part, on STAR data, it's critical that the data accurately reflect each student's ability. Please take a moment to discuss the importance of this assessment with your child at home and encourage your child to try his or her best. Below is an overview of the Common Core State Standards domain areas in the STAR Assessments.

Early Literacy Skills (Gr K-1 on iPad): This includes alphabetic principles, concepts of word, visual discrimination, phonemic awareness, phonics, structural analysis, vocabulary, sentence and paragraph comprehension, and early numeracy.

STAR Reading (Gr 2-11): This includes word knowledge and skills, comprehension strategies and constructing meaning, analyzing literacy text, understanding author's craft, analyzing argument and evaluating text.

STAR Math (Gr 2-11): This includes numbers and operations, algebra, geometry and measurement, data analysis, statistics and probability.

During the school year the staff will continue to monitor the progress of your child. As with any assessment measure, many factors affect a student's performance. It is important to understand that these measures only provide one picture of how a student is doing in school.

Lastly, we are currently working to offer parents an opportunity to view student assessment results through the parent portal in Skyward. While we are working to add that feature, you may request the STAR parent report from your child's teacher or school. Often teachers will share this information during parent/teacher conferences. If you have any questions about this assessment kindly contact your child's school Principal. Thank you for your continued support and interest in your child's school success.

Sincerely,
South Kingstown School Department