



THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY

52 Chambers Street – New York, NY 10007

Dear Educators,

The New York City Department of Education is committed to supporting teachers as they work to ensure that all students enter third grade with the vital literacy skills that form a foundation for their learning. The Periodic Assessment Team is excited to support you in your Early Childhood Periodic Assessment choice for the 2007-2008 school year. This memo will further clarify the requirements of your selected Periodic Assessments as well as provide important information about each of the assessments.

The Options for Early Childhood Assessment Plans

For this school year, schools had the option of choosing between ECLAS-2 and one of two new Early Childhood Periodic Assessment options, one designed by Wireless Generation (mCLASS) and the other designed by the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project (TCRWP). Schools could also choose to apply to create a set of Design Your Own (DYO) assessments.

Selecting an Early Childhood Assessment Plan

At the end of last school year, you had the opportunity to select the K-2 Periodic Assessment package that best supports student achievement and teaching practices within your school context. If your school is not already registered for TCRWP assessments or the mCLASS Pilot Program, or already approved for DYO, then you should continue to administer ECLAS-2. Schools that wish to administer assessments other than one of the three approved programs are encouraged to apply for Design Your Own (DYO) assessments this spring for the 2008-2009 school year. For more information about each of the assessment options, please see below.

Reading First Schools

Reading First Schools that are administering ECLAS-2 and DIBELS should continue to administer these assessments for 2007-2008. Please refer to the 2007-2008 ECLAS-2 Administration Memo (see link) for guidelines on administering ECLAS-2.

http://schools.nyc.gov/daa/testmemos_0708/2007-2008%20ECLAS-2%20Administration%20Memo.pdf

Third Grade Students

Administration of ECLAS-2, TCRWP, and mCLASS assessments in third grade in addition to the five Periodic Assessments in ELA is optional.

ECLAS-2 and E-PAL

The Grade 3 administration of ECLAS-2 is *optional*. However, we suggest that any student who did not meet Midyear Grade 2 benchmarks (Level 5) in Reading Accuracy and Comprehension should be assessed with the complete ECLAS-2 Kit (including Decoding of Made-up Words). Also, we recommend that the end of Grade 3



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administration be given to all students whose promotion is in doubt, as the results may be considered in the appeals process. As in previous years, E-PAL is also *optional* for 3rd grade students.

TCRWP

Schools participating in the Predictive/TCRWP Blended Package should continue to administer Leveling Guide Assessments to third grade students. If your school has selected a different package of Periodic Assessments you may administer the TCRWP assessments in addition to your chosen package for some or all of your students.

Wireless Generation mCLASS Program

Schools in the mCLASS Program may choose to continue to administer assessments for their 3rd grade students either by using ECLAS-2 paper/pencil or by purchasing additional licenses from Wireless Generation to administer ECLAS-2 and DIBELS on the palm.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact the Periodic Assessment Team at 212-374-5162 or periodicassessment@schools.nyc.gov

Best,

Marisa, Patrick, Sarah, Emily, Matt, and Rebecca
The Periodic Assessment Team

ECLAS-2

The ECLAS-2 fall assessment window began September 4, 2007 and extends through October 31, 2007. Please follow the link to view the 2007-2008 ECLAS-2 assessment administration memo. http://schools.nyc.gov/daa/testmemos_0708/2007-2008%20ECLAS-2%20Administration%20Memo.pdf

mCLASS Pilot Program

Schools selected for participation in the mCLASS Pilot Program chose between an ECLAS-2/ DIBELS package and a Reading 3D package. Schools that registered for the ECLAS-2 and DIBELS package should refer to the ECLAS-2 administration memo at (insert link) for administration details. Additional information that is specific to using the handheld computers was provided by Wireless Generation.

Schools that registered for the Reading 3D package are *no longer required* to administer ECLAS-2 assessments. However, if you would like to continue administering ECLAS-2 using paper/pencil in addition to the Reading 3D assessments or as a diagnostic tool to identify students for Passport and/or other intervention services, please respond to this short survey ([click here](#)) by **October 31, 2007**. (See the ECLAS-2 administration memo at



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[2%20Administration%20Memo.pdf](#) for more information on using ECLAS-2 as a diagnostic tool and as a method to identify students for intervention services.)

Beginning in November, schools that have *not responded* to the survey will no longer receive ECLAS-2 materials. If you have decided *not* to administer ECLAS-2 and would like to return the materials you ordered last spring, please contact the Assessment Implementation Director at your borough's Integrated Service Center.

TCRWP Assessments

Schools that have elected to administer Teachers College Reading and Writing Project (TCRWP) K-2 Assessments are *no longer required* to administer the ECLAS-2 assessments. However, if you would like to continue administering ECLAS-2 in addition to the Leveling Guide Assessments or as a diagnostic tool to identify students for Passport and/or other intervention services, please respond to this short survey ([click here](#)) by **October 31, 2007**. (See the ECLAS-2 administration memo at http://schools.nyc.gov/daa/testmemos_0708/2007-2008%20ECLAS-2%20Administration%20Memo.pdf for more information on using ECLAS-2 as a diagnostic tool and as a method to identify students for intervention services.)

Beginning in November, schools that have *not responded* to the survey will no longer receive ECLAS-2 materials. If you have decided *not* to administer ECLAS-2 and would like to return the materials you ordered last spring, please contact the Assessment Implementation Director at your borough's Integrated Service Center.

Schools using TCRWP K-2 Assessments will administer the assessments 3 times per year, following the same schedule as ECLAS-2. For the first assessments, teachers should keep track of their students' levels; TCRWP and the Periodic Assessment Team are currently partnering on creating a supportive way to capture and share assessment information for future administrations.

If you have any questions regarding TCRWP K-2 assessments, please contact Hilary Aylesworth at 212-678-8111 or Aylesworth@tc.edu.

DYO Assessments

Schools that were approved to use DYO K-2 assessments for the 2007-2008 school year are expected to follow the assessment design and implementation schedule, as well as the plan for communicating results, that were presented in detail in their DYO applications. DYO applications for the 2008-2009 school year will be available in the spring of 2008. For questions about DYO assessments please contact periodicassessment@schools.nyc.gov.



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Once again, if you have any questions about the Periodic Assessments for Early Childhood literacy assessments, please contact the Periodic Assessment Team at 212-374-5162 or periodicassessment@schools.nyc.gov.