

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents  
FROM: Daniel M. French, Ed.D., Secretary of Education  
SUBJECT: Agency of Education to Provide Cost-Free Access to Lexile and Quantile Frameworks  
DATE: December 12, 2019

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In the coming months, the Agency of Education (AOE) will be prioritizing the improvement of reading and math outcomes for students.

The research studies behind Act 173 identified a concerning trend in our Smarter Balanced Assessment data, and this trend appears to have been confirmed by our recent performance on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Specifically, the trend shows that over the last several years nearly half of our students are consistently “not proficient” in reading and math in Grade 3 and Grade 4.

It is also clear from the research studies behind Act 173 that we have insufficient data to address these performance concerns. We have no state-level data prior to Grade 3, and the data we do have is not necessarily connected or tagged to intervention programs and curricular resources. To address this issue, we are [pleased to announce](#) that we have leveraged federal grant funds to offer statewide, no-cost access to the Lexile and Quantile Frameworks and their associated resources.

The Lexile and Quantile Frameworks are systems that measure both student reading and math ability, as well as the complexity of text and mathematics. The Lexile Framework links student reading ability with texts that are appropriately challenging. The Quantile Framework works similarly for mathematics, matching student capacity to the difficulty level of math.

As a [Lexile and Quantile State Partner](#), we will receive student-specific Lexile and Quantile measures on Vermont Smarter Balanced Assessment scores starting with the 2020 testing cycle. Educators will be able to use the Lexile and Quantile measures from the Smarter Balanced Assessment to target resources and instruction to help their students improve.

We understand that many districts implement commercial benchmark assessments in the early grades, and that many of these assessments have the capability to report scores as Lexile and Quantile measures. Implementing Lexile and Quantile measures with Smarter Balanced Assessment scores creates the potential for a data continuum for student performance using local benchmark assessment scores and Smarter Balanced Assessment scores on common scales.

Lexile and Quantile measures will also support our personalized learning initiatives. For example, we will be providing access to data that reports the entry-level Lexile and Quantile measures for most career fields. This will support student goal setting in Personalized Learning Plans; as students obtain a better understanding of the academic requirements of specific career

pathways, they will be able to set specific academic goals to ensure they are well prepared for success.

Finally, we also expect the Lexile and Quantile Frameworks to be valuable to help support students who struggle, both in the context of Individualized Education Program (IEP) goal setting and improving general education supports through the Educational Support Team (EST) process. Since the Lexile and Quantile measures are based on equal increment scales irrespective of assigned student grade levels, they can help focus our interventions on student growth over time.

Vermont educators will have free access to the [Lexile & Quantile Hub](#), an online platform that offers instructional and planning resources, including a book search, text analyzer, word lists, math skills database, Quantile teacher assistant and more. The Hub has career databases for both Lexile and Quantile measures to help guide students' personalized learning and college/career goals.

Students and families will also benefit from this partnership through access to free, web-based tools to find appropriate and challenging books for independent reading, track growth toward school, college and career goals, and support learning outside the classroom.

We believe that these measures will enrich the education of all students, and we are committed to providing equitable access statewide to support a high-quality literacy and numeracy education for each Vermont student. We hope that you will take advantage of these resources and welcome your feedback on other ways that we can support the success of Vermont students as they build the educational foundation for their personal aspirations and lifelong learning.