

User Questions and Answers from the 9/19/2014 Iowa TIER Support Webinar

We had a wonderful turnout for our webinar. Many thanks to all who attended!

There were lots of great questions asked by our users. Here is a recap of some of those questions and answers –

Iowa TIER Support Webinar Questions

No questions at this time.

Single User Access Role Type Assignment and Staff Management

Q: “Our GWAEA literacy consultant has been supporting all of our efforts. Can we assign her a role in our system (school district SIS)?” (Question from a school district)

A: Please don't enter the AEA user in your SIS. Each AEA will have people who can get them into the system and assigned to your district.

A&A (EdPortal) Account Setup

No questions at this time.

Accessing Iowa TIER via the Iowa EdPortal

Q: “I am still not able to access TIER and am getting the same message. I was told by our SIS that this is something that needs to be handled from the DOE side. Can you help? We have not been able to start testing yet.”

A: There are some issues with duplicate staff records that we need to resolve. If you have confirmed that everything has been set up correctly in your local SIS, you will need to contact an internal coach in order to submit a support ticket.

Reporting

Q: “If some of my reports are in color & others are in black & white, do you want a ticket or do you know about that problem?”

A: We are currently aware that some of the reports are not printing in color. You do not need to submit a ticket at this time, as this is a known issue which we are working to get corrected. Stay tuned.

Testing and Measurement

Q: “Who determines the cut scores?”

A: FAST developed the cut scores based on predicting success on an outcome assessment.

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Q: "Are there any FAST score grade equivalencies or percentile ranks, or is it because it is a screener they don't do that?"

A: There are no grade equivalents. Please refer to the technical manual in the TIER Knowledge Base to understand scores.

Q: "I know the FAST will be used in 2017 for 3rd grade retention. Is there a certain test measure or a composite score that will be used for that?"

A: This has not been determined yet. There will be more research to conduct before the decision is made how to measure the outcome for 3rd grade retention.

Q: "Does every student that has an area in red need an intervention or progress monitoring?"

A: The breakdowns are like this; K and 1 = composite score, CBM-R = median words correct, aReading = scale score. Progress Monitoring will be required for at-risk scores (first time below benchmark – in the red), while intervention and Progress Monitoring will be required for those identified with substantial deficiency (second consecutive time scoring below benchmark).

Q: "If a student is green in one of the tests (CBM-R or aReading), is progress monitoring still necessary?"

A: If you are giving both CBM-R and aReading tests, one score above benchmark = not at risk. You may want to still monitor progress, however.

Q: "Do we need to monitor progress until the winter testing period or just until the student scores in the green level?"

A: You need to monitor progress until the next screening period for a student who is at risk.

Q: "I can't seem to set kids up in progress monitoring without scheduling an intervention, since intervention is not required until the student is substantially deficient. I have schools that are interested in PM only at first."

A: Correct. You must schedule an intervention. There is one called "Progress Only" which will indicate no intervention.

Q: "We have just done two classes so far. We're taking it slow so we can learn how things work first. This question is about a student who was "in the red" for just one test; Word Segmentation. I just scheduled her intervention as "No Intervention" so we could just do progress monitoring. Now, when I

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go to do progress monitoring, it says that her progress monitoring is CBM-R which is a fluency assessment. Shouldn't her progress monitoring be for Word Segmentation (her one area below benchmark)?

A: There are options available to schedule other progress monitoring assessments besides the default. These can be set up manually in the system. Please refer to the directions in the knowledge base for details.

Q: "Why do we have a pull-down menu that gives the option to monitor progress every two weeks and monthly? Isn't the requirement to do so weekly?"

A: The legislative requirement is to do Progress Monitoring weekly. Some of the flexibility may tighten, and some of it is related to the alternate PM schedules.

Staff Training and Certification

No questions at this time.

Student Management

Q: "We have never scheduled our students in JMC. Everyone is just matched with an advisor. If we would figure out how to schedule our kids, would we be able to have the teachers see only their own kids? What class must be set up to schedule the students?"

A: Yes, students must be scheduled to a class for Iowa TIER. You only need to have one class scheduled for each teacher if you are scheduling classes just for TIER. Consider something like Brown2 TIER.

Q: "Some teachers have already assessed their students. If we go back and schedule in JMC will this mess anything up? Can it be a homeroom?"

A: No, it shouldn't, and yes, it could be a class called "Homeroom", but it must be a scheduled class. Check with your SIS supports for more details.

Q: "Has there been a reason that some kids disappear and then later will reappear in TIER (or not sometimes)?"

A: There was a period of time where the programmers were testing ways of combining duplicate students. There was a load this last week that refreshed all students. This was meant to take care of duplicate student issues, and they are adding additional fixes. We may run into some cases where students might still not be visible. If this is the case, please let us know by submitting a support ticket. Hopefully we have the correct combination of filters to keep this from continuing.

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Q: "If we are done testing our students and then a new family moves to town before the end of the testing window, do we test them also?"

A: Yes, please test students who move in during the window. Students may or may not have been screened in their previous location. Score transfers will be coming in a future update. In the meantime, feel free to test the student if you need the data for your local decision-making. It is also possible to test students who arrive after the screening window closes.

Q: "We still can't filter by Special Ed and Title 1. Is this a problem specific to us, or are other schools also having this issue?"

A: It seems to be an overall issue. We will check on the Special Ed and Title 1 filters with our programmers. In the meantime, it's not a deal breaker as far as universal screening. We can always go back in later and fix it.

Q: "How do you use the option to schedule other progress monitoring assessments besides the default?"

A; you can find directions for progress monitoring setup in the TIER Knowledge Base. We will be updating everything soon.

Q: "What are the expectations for starting progress monitoring? I assume we start progress monitoring soon after we are done testing. How do we do that if our classroom teachers have not been trained yet and are not certified?"

A: You can start monitoring progress by the end of the assessment window, but the ideal time would be soon after you are done screening. Also, remember that certification has been temporarily waived for this screening window. If you need extra training, you can always visit the TIER Training site.

Q: "On the Iowa Reading Research Center's website, they have sample parent letters that can be used to notify parents of a student's score after each assessment. What is REQUIRED in terms of parent notification under the law?"

A: You can locate the file for the guidance document for detailed requirements at this link - <https://www.educateiowa.gov/early-literacy-implementation>

Q: "The IRRRC's letters look great, but isn't it possible to create parent reports that can just be printed out directly from the TIER system? As it is now, teachers need to take time to write down each student score."

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A: One method of suggestion would be to do a mail merge from the data file export in the oneclick reports. (Whenever you get a great idea like this, don't forget to add it to the TIER Idea Forum!)

SIS (Infinite Campus, JMC, and Power School) Functionality

No questions at this time.

Technical Requirements

No questions at this time.

Iowa TIER Support Ticketing System

Q: "Is the idea forum in the coaches chat center?"

A: The Idea forum is in a different area from the Coach's Chat Corner. They are both located in the Iowa TIER Knowledge Base.

If you would like to get access to the latest Q&A documents, please go to the DE website at <https://www.educateiowa.gov/early-literacy-implementation>, click on "A to Z index", click on "E", and find "Early Literacy Implementation". Scroll down to find "Supporting Documents" and other documents that deal with setup.

If you are still unable to get into Iowa TIER, please contact us at TIERSupport@iowa.gov

For all other Iowa TIER issues, please contact an internal coach and have them submit a support ticket.