



Dear School Leaders,

We are excited to announce the vendor we have selected to develop and deliver high-quality district interim assessments. For 2015-16, we will be partnering with the Achievement Network (ANet).

### **Why we believe ANet is the best partner for 2015-16**

- ANet has built a strong reputation - both in DPS and throughout the country - as a provider with high-quality assessments.
- They offer a simple and intuitive platform for accessing results called MyANet.
- English tests can be administered online.
- Spanish tests are available via paper and pencil for 2015-16 and online thereafter.
- A quiz tool will allow school staff to pull from item banks and create their own assessments.
- ANet's assessments accurately reflect the rigor of the Common Core and they will help teachers determine how well students have mastered the content.

### **What this decision means for schools opting in to district assessments**

- Interims will be administered three times throughout the year, with a fourth window for formative assessment happening at the end of the year using a small-scale performance-based task, not an interim.
- Interims will be administered in both math and literacy for all students in grades 3-8.
- Interims are available in Grade 2 and are optional in both content areas. Grade 2 assessment will also be available in Spanish.
- Authentic Spanish Literacy assessments will be provided for grades 3-4. We are continuing to work with ANet on delivering a Spanish assessment for fifth grade and will provide more details when they are available.
- For math, schools will have the flexibility to select interims aligned to the DPS curriculum or aligned to EngageNY/Eureka Math. More information on submitting your selection will be shared in July.
- For math, assessments translated in Spanish will be available in grades 3-8.
- End-of-year assessments will be separate from interims and will be replaced with small-scale performance-based tasks.
- All teachers and school leaders will have access to the interim assessment data for their students in the platform MyANet.

- In addition to the resources provided by ANet, over 32,000 Common Core-created assessment items will be loaded into Schoolnet and available to all DPS schools in the fall to support school-based efforts to develop additional formative assessments.
- If you have confirmed with the Flexibility team that you are opting in, no further work is required.

**What this decision means for schools that have declined to opt in to a district assessment system**

- If you are already an ANet school, you do not need to do anything further.
- If you are not an ANet school or if you previously declined but are interested in opting in for ANet, you need to contact [flexibility@dpsk12.org](mailto:flexibility@dpsk12.org) to determine your options.
- If you have confirmed with the Flexibility team that you are declining the district option, no further work is required, though you still need to [follow guidelines set by the district and state](#) when initiating your own assessment system.
- For the 2015-16 school year, no additional funds will be available to schools declining ANet. However, all schools will have access to the ANet platform and their item bank. Schools will also have access to an item bank in Schoolnet that will include over 32,000 items aligned to the Common Core.

*Note: High school leaders do not need to opt in or decline, as there are no district interims at the high school level. The assessment windows for course assessments, which include semester finals and end of course finals, are posted in the [assessment calendar](#) (in draft form). High schools will also have access to items that are loaded into the Item Bank in Schoolnet.*

Thank you for your patience as we work to ensure assessments next year are high quality and administered with a platform that enables teachers to more easily access and analyze data to drive instruction. DPS, in partnership with ANet, is committed to making these changes and providing the highest-quality assessments to our schools.

For more information, please see [flexibility.dpsk12.org](http://flexibility.dpsk12.org) or email [flexibility@dpsk12.org](mailto:flexibility@dpsk12.org).

Sincerely,

*Alyssa Whitehead-Bust  
Chief Academic and Innovation Officer*

*Susana Cordova  
Chief Schools Officer*