Unlock the Value of *i-Ready*'s Personalized and Teacher-Led Instruction

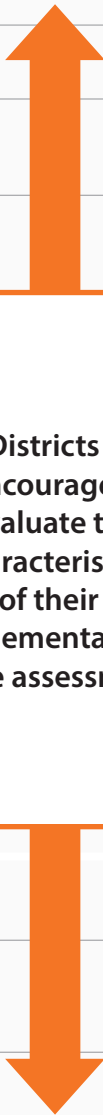Curriculum Associates Guidance Brief | April 2025

Guidance Overview

i-Ready provides data to inform instruction—first, by helping teachers understand the skills students need to develop as they accelerate toward proficiency, and second, by providing high-quality instructional materials at point of use. This guidance highlights the different ways *i-Ready* can be implemented to complement other delivery systems such as aimswebPlus Early Literacy.

Data to Inform Instruction

i-Ready Diagnostic provides not only norm-referenced but also criterion-referenced data to make the most informed educational decisions. Investing classroom time in *i-Ready* allows teachers to use critical instructional time more strategically, resulting in improved learning outcomes. The graphic below illustrates how a district may think about using aimswebPlus Early Literacy alongside *i-Ready*, with aimswebPlus Early Literacy being used to address state goals and *i-Ready* used to complement aimswebPlus and address district-level instructional needs.

Priority	i-Ready	aimswebPlus Early Literacy
Instructional Connection		
Teacher-Led Instruction	Yes—Tools for Instruction and Personalized Instruction	
Individualized Tools for Instruction	Yes—For every domain	
Acceleration Tools	Yes—Instructional resources and Stretch Growth®	
Classroom Groupings	Yes—Automated and research based	
Assessment Design		
Adapts to Above- and Below-Grade Level Instruction	Yes—Adapts to best address students' needs	
Criterion Referenced	Yes—Provides insight into content proficiency	Districts are encouraged to evaluate these characteristics in light of their specific implementation of the assessment.
National Norm Referenced	Yes—New post-pandemic national norms	
Personalized Goal Setting, Including Stretch Growth	Yes—Two automated growth measures available	
Service and Support		
Dedicated Support Team	Yes—*i-Ready Partners* available to help	
Proven History of District Support	Yes	
Comprehensive Data Reviews Three Times per Year with Customized Recommendations	Yes—Available at no additional charge	

Using *i-Ready* and aimswebPlus Early Literacy Together

If your school district uses aimswebPlus Early Literacy, *i-Ready Diagnostic* and Personalized Instruction could be used to provide a complete understanding of students performing at all levels. Coupling aimswebPlus Early Literacy with *i-Ready* would address missed opportunities to enhance learning by evaluating a much broader set of literacy skills.

In this potential model, educators would omit *i-Ready Literacy Tasks* and administer aimswebPlus Early Literacy and *i-Ready Diagnostic*. Educators would use aimswebPlus Early Literacy for screening and monitoring interventions, as required, and use *i-Ready Diagnostic* to monitor and support students as they work toward grade-level expectations. The *i-Ready Diagnostic* would be used to provide educators with a holistic view of a student's literacy proficiency beyond fluency.

Administration and Use	*i-Ready Diagnostic*	aimswebPlus Early Literacy
Implementation	• Computer-adaptive assessment • *i-Ready Diagnostic* administered three times per year • Whole class administration	• Paper/pencil test with digital record keeping and scoring • Administration varies—up to weekly • One-to-one administration
Instructional Support	• Provides immediate insight into student performance overall and by domain • Identifies critical skills students need to be prepared for and recommends instructional resources	• Provides insight into student performance in specific literacy skills for intervention • Provides feedback on student progress toward literacy goals
Data Use	• Focuses on normative and criterion-referenced data to provide classroom-, school-, and district-level actionable information for many needs • *i-Ready* also provides early insights into students' potential success on state assessments.	• Focuses on growth norms to provide student screening and intervention information

Flexible Options to Maximize Instructional Time and Minimize Classroom Disruption

	Comprehensive	Instructional Placement+	Instructional Placement	Personalized Instruction Only
Instructional Placement Annual Frequency	**Three** Times	**Two** Times	**One** Time	
Instructional Placement Hours	**Six** Hours	**Four** Hours	**Two** Hours	
Personalized Instruction	●	●	●	●
Acceleration Tools: Grade-Level Planning (Prerequisites) and (Scaffolding) reports for scaffolding to grade-level instruction • Provide teachers with insights into prerequisites acquired or requiring support for upcoming grade-level mathematics or reading comprehension • Resources to scaffold whole class, small group, or for individual instruction	●	●	●	
i-Ready Growth Measures	●	●		
Teacher Insights: Can Dos, Next Steps, and Instructional Groupings	●	◐	◐	
Leader Insights • Quadrant Graph: Informs planning by showing growth and performance together so educators know where to focus to accelerate learning • Historical Reporting: Allows planning from one year to the next to identify trends, so leaders can celebrate successes and determine areas for improvement • Growth Reporting: Provides leaders with insights into how schools, grades, and students are making progress toward their growth measures; helps plan instruction and resource allocations • Projected Proficiency	●	●		
Additional Tools for Insights: Growth Monitoring, Literacy Tasks	●	●	●	
Standards Mastery	●	●	●	●
Dyslexia Screener	●	●	●	
Summer School Planning and Placement	●	●		
Beginning-of-Year Data Review with Account Manager	●	●		
Midyear Data Review with Account Manager	●	●		
End-of-Year Data Review with Account Manager	●	●		

Implementation Models

Comprehensive

In a time of ongoing change, continuity for teachers and learners is essential. Our Comprehensive implementation model provides an invaluable source of stability as well as insights for teachers, uncovering students' strengths and needs and suggesting actionable instruction.

Considerations

- ✓ **Data refreshed throughout the year to support acceleration**
- ✓ **Maximizes instructional time**
- ✓ **Maximizes classroom continuity, minimizes disruption—best option for teachers**
- ✓ **Standards Mastery, Grade-Level Planning (Prerequisites), and Grade-Level Planning (Scaffolding) reports**
- ✓ **Student insights—Review impact by measuring acceleration and progress toward growth measures with year-over-year data.**
- ✓ **Small amount of total available testing time**
- ✓ **Supports conversations with students and families**
- ✓ **Most robust professional learning and tailored support from Curriculum Associates**

Instructional Placement⁺

Reduce overall testing time and still unlock the value of *i-Ready*'s personalized and teacher-led instruction with a placement-level test in the fall and winter. This enables the creation of personalized lesson paths and informs teacher-led instruction with resources like Can Dos, Next Steps, Instructional Groupings, and Grade-Level Planning (Prerequisites) and Grade-Level Planning (Scaffolding) reports—all of which give teachers clear insights to understand with precision how to support their students and connect directly to high-quality instructional resources.

Considerations

- ✓ **Balances reduction in overall placement testing time with insights for teachers**
- ✓ **Standards Mastery**
- ✓ **Some continuity of data to help drive instruction**
- ✗ Does not support summer school placements and planning
- ✗ No tracking to end of year, meaning final placements or growth are unavailable

Implementation Models, Cont'd.

Instructional Placement

Similar to Instructional Placement[+] but with a single placement test in the fall, this model supports personalized and teacher-led instruction.

Considerations

- ✓ **Reduction in placement testing hours**
- ✓ **Supports initial placement for Personalized Instruction**
- ✓ **Standards Mastery**

Personalized Instruction Only

With students assigned lessons at their chronological grade or using spring Diagnostic data, teachers can continue to use Personalized Instruction lessons and other content they know and value from *i-Ready*. Because the data is not refreshed during the school year, we recommend that districts reviewing this option discuss rostering with your Curriculum Associates Account Manager.

Considerations

- ✓ **Eliminates perception of "over-testing"**

As above, plus:

- ✕ No placement setting used
- ✕ No access to Growth Monitoring
- ✕ Standards Mastery
- ✕ Disruptions for teachers
- ✕ Additional teacher and leader work to implement
- ✕ No Tools for Instruction and many other reports

Professional Learning for Continued Impact

Strengthening Use of *i-Ready* for Grade-Level Acceleration and Intervention

i-Ready serves multiple purposes with domain-level placements and growth targets. *i-Ready* offers several reports that give deep insights into what students need to access grade level-aligned instruction. Our professional learning specialists facilitate consultative, goal-oriented sessions with school- and grade-level teams and individual teachers as they strive to meet high expectations to accelerate all students to meet ambitious stretch goals.

Developing School Leaders to Drive Success

We've learned across thousands of implementations that school leaders are the most important factor in fostering data-driven culture and results. Our professional learning specialists do side-by-side coaching with instructional and administrative leaders to develop their confidence in leveraging *i-Ready* data, access new leader insights in *i-Ready*, and facilitate school-level data chats and cross-functional collaboration.

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For questions, contact your *i-Ready* Educational Sales Consultant or Partner Success Manager.