

Dear Partners,

As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance the LevelSet assessment and strengthen its overall validity, we have embedded field test items within the LevelSet. This initiative aims to improve the assessment's validity and effectiveness, ultimately benefiting our students' learning experiences.

We have compiled the following information in anticipation of questions you might have:

What are the Field Test Items?

To ensure the Literacy LevelSet assessment remains fair, accurate, and effective, some test forms may include *field test items*. These are unscored items that appear alongside scored, operational items. The purpose of field test items is to evaluate their performance under real testing conditions. By analyzing these items, we can determine if they meet the rigorous standards required to be included in future assessments. This process helps us continuously improve the quality and fairness of the Literacy LevelSet.

Who will be impacted?

This update applies to all students taking the LevelSet assessment at all points in the school year.

For how long will the field test items remain embedded within the LevelSet?

The field test items will remain in place for at least the next school year as we continue to enhance the LevelSet assessment. The inclusion of field test items is a standard practice in assessment development, helping to strengthen the overall validity of the test.

How are the field test items different from the regular LevelSet items?

For more information, refer to the attached document: **LevelSet Assessment Field Test Items**. Note that, the new field test items include multiselect items and two-part questions. Unlike the regular LevelSet questions, which consist of a single paragraph varying in length depending on the student's starting Lexile level and rostered grade, the field test items feature a multi-paragraph text (6-7 paragraphs) accompanied by several questions (approximately 5) referencing the same text. For the Spring 25 interim assessment window, the readability of these texts is also dependent on the student's starting Lexile level or rostered grade.

Do the field test items contribute to the calculation of a student's Lexile measure?

No, field test items do not contribute to the calculation of a student's Lexile measure and are not included in score reports.

How should students prepare for the field items?

There is no need for additional preparation beyond the usual routine. We aim to avoid raising unnecessary concerns. As always, please encourage students to complete the test within 60 minutes. Remember, the purpose of the LevelSet is to establish their Lexile baseline and assign texts that align with each student's individual reading level. This ensures that students engage with content appropriately matched to their skill level, optimizing their learning experience and growth.

By design, the LevelSet includes questions that some students may find challenging and may not be able to answer. This is intentional and acceptable. We strive to alleviate concerns and reduce test fatigue for our students. Remind them that the LevelSet bookmarks their progress, allowing them to take breaks and complete the test over multiple sessions if needed.

Is it possible to opt out of field test items?

No, it is not possible to opt out of field test items, as they are an embedded part of the LevelSet assessments.

What resources are available to support students and teachers in preparing for the LevelSet?

Please refer to the following resources to help students prepare for the LevelSet:

- [Student LevelSet Video](#)
- [Tips for Preparing Students for LevelSet](#)

These resources offer valuable guidance to ensure students are well-prepared for the assessment.

We appreciate your attention to this update and your continued support in providing the best educational experiences for your students.