

Frequently-Asked Questions Regarding the Revised-Emerging Literacy Survey (R-ELS)

Revised August 22, 2007

- 1. Where did the original ELS come from?** It was developed and published by Houghton Mifflin and was included in our district reading/language arts adoption in 2002.
- 2. Why did SMMUSD revise the ELS?** After kindergarten teachers used the ELS for 3 years in SMMUSD, a number of teachers felt that it could be modified to provide more targeted information to teachers. Educational Services oversaw the revision process during the 2006-2007 school year, which included surveying all kindergarten teachers, analyzing the research on early literacy assessment, and piloting all revised sections. The version published this fall reflects the input and feedback of all kindergarten teachers who participated in the survey, attended feedback meetings, and administered the revised assessment to their students during the spring pilot.
- 3. When will I be trained to administer the Revised-ELS?** Each school site has been contacted by Cindy Kratzer to set up a training time for kindergarten teachers at your site. Please check with your principal to find out when your training session will be.
- 4. May my instructional assistant or a parent administer the Revised-Emerging Literacy Survey?** The purpose of the R-ELS is for teachers to gain valuable information about the learning needs of their students. It is therefore important that teachers test their own students. However, instructional assistants and parents can be an extremely valuable resource. They can be used to monitor students doing independent work while the teacher is testing.
- 5. Where do I find the Revised ELS?** The ELS is part of the *Houghton Mifflin Reading* materials. However, the materials for the Revised-ELS are being sent to each school site. Be sure to follow the Directions for Administration and Scoring for the *Revised ELS*.
- 6. Do I have to administer the entire test to each student?** No.
 - In the fall, you should administer these 6 sections: *Rhyme, Beginning Sounds, Concepts of Print, Letter Naming, Word Recognition* and *Word Writing*.
 - Each section of the test provides information on when to discontinue that section. Please read the section instructions closely to determine when to discontinue.
 - If a student scores 6 or more on the Rhyme or Beginning Sounds sections, you may administer the remaining Phonemic Awareness sections.
- 7. What materials do I need to administer the R-ELS?**
 - Accompanying this memo, each teacher has received **11 student masters** that can be placed in the 6 sheet protectors enclosed. These masters and sheet protectors should be re-used each year.
 - A **Summary Form and Recording Sheets** for each student tested—accompanying this memo you should have enough of these packets for your entire class.
 - An **R-ELS Reporting Form** containing the student's ID in Bar Code format, plus bubbles for each section of the test (This form will arrive once the class lists have been finalized. You do not need this form to administer the test; just to return the results to Ed Services).
 - A piece of **blank lined paper** on which each student can write words (one piece per student).
 - A **pencil** for student use.

BAR CODES: Bar codes are pre-printed on the R-ELS Reporting Form—one per student. Please make sure to complete the correct form for each student. If you test a student for whom there is no pre-

printed R-ELS Reporting Form, use a blank form (provided for you) and **write the student's name and STUDENT ID** in the upper right-hand corner of the R-ELS Reporting Form.

BUBBLING SCORES on the R-ELS REPORTING FORM: After administering the test to a student, calculate the scores for each section of the test, record that information on their Summary Form, and bubble in the ELS Reporting Form. Bubble in the circle under the number of **correct** responses. You may use blue/black pen or pencil to bubble in the circle, but please **do not put an X or check-mark**, as the computer will not recognize those marks.

R-ELS REPORTING FORMS: Return these forms to your principal/designee by October 15. The remainder of the packet should remain with you and should be re-used when you administer the test later in the year.

6. How do I administer the R-ELS?

The guidelines for administering the R-ELS are included in your packet of materials. If you have additional questions, check with another kindergarten teacher at your site, or contact Cindy Kratzer, Educational Services, 70-291, kratzer@smmusd.org

7. When do I find the time to score the R-ELS?

Teachers may score the R-ELS at their professional discretion. Some teachers may wish to score after kindergarten dismissal. Others may prefer to score immediately after administering the assessment.

8. Do I administer the R-ELS to all my students?

All students, including Special Education students and English language learners, should be assessed using the R-ELS, unless they have an IEP which would indicate otherwise. The R-ELS can provide valuable information about which students may need targeted intervention and support in the future.

9. What are the other students doing while I administer the R-ELS?

Use your early-release days to test some of your students. You will also have two 1/2 days where you can be subbed out to administer the R-ELS. To test any remaining students during the school day, you need to do what works best for your individual teaching style and the learning needs of your students. Keep in mind that the R-ELS allows for flexibility during administration. It can be broken up into small time slots during different parts of the day.

10. May I give my students additional assessments, as well as the R-ELS?

Yes. Teachers are encouraged to use whatever assessments they feel provide valuable information about students to better inform their instruction. However, these assessments must be IN ADDITION to the R-ELS.

11. May I administer the Running Record or Leveled Reading Passages Assessment Kit (LRPAK) to kindergarten students who are working above grade level? Yes. However, Educational Services will not be collecting Running Record/LRPAK data on Kindergarten students.

12. Whom do I ask if I have questions about administering the R-ELS? The most valuable resource is other kindergarten teachers at your school site. Additionally, you can contact Cindy Kratzer, Literacy Coordinator, in Educational Services (kratzer@smmusd.org; 450-8338 x291).

13. To whom do I return the Kindergarten Fall Revised Emerging Literacy Survey Reporting Forms?

Return the completed R-ELS Recording Forms (bubble sheets) to your principal/designee by October 15th, so they can be received in Ed Services (Attn: Ania Kubicz-Preis) on October 17th.