Star ASSESSMENTS:
new tools for All

An Overview for School Committee
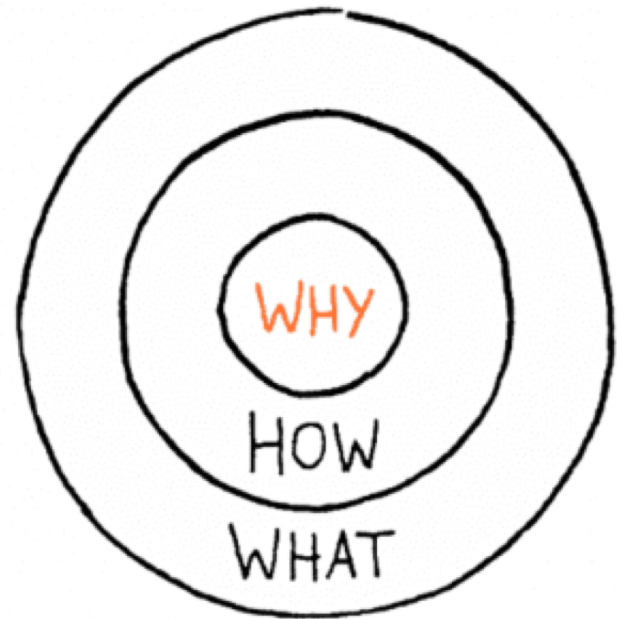*December 2, 2020*

The big Idea: information is power

- Why we are implementing a universal screener
- What the Star assessment does, and
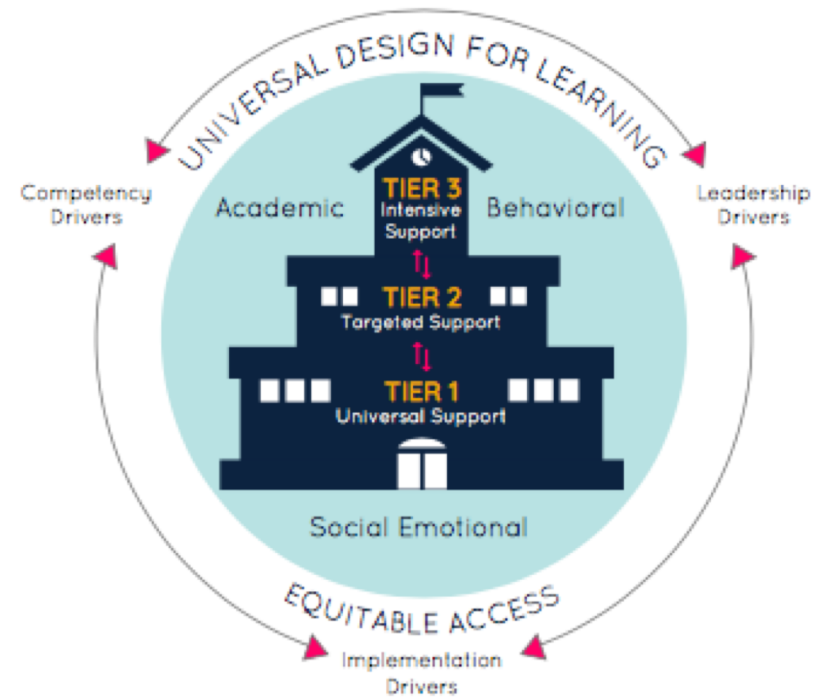- How the Star assessment will be useful to us

Why this tool, and why now?

- Why we are implementing a universal screener
- What the Star assessment does, and
- How the Star assessment will be useful to us

The power of a universal screening tool

Universal screening is the systematic **assessment** of all students on academic and/or social-emotional indicators for the **purpose of** identifying students who are at-risk, and may require support that varies in terms of level, intensity, and duration.

Students' skills are built on a solid foundation

Tier 3: The Core + Even more

Tier 2: The Core + More

Tier 1: The Core

Taken from the DESE's MTSS Mobilization Guide

Information teams can use

- Typically students take 15-20 minutes to take each assessment.
- Teachers should not have to do more than supervise the process during test administration.
- AFTER testing educators will have the information they need to assign their students "just right" levels in Freckle.
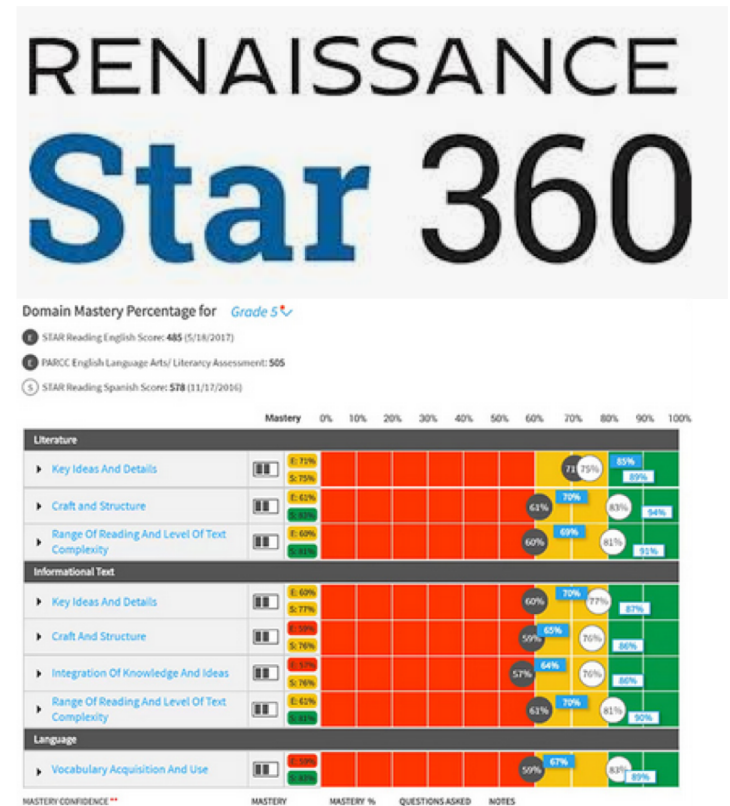
THIS TOOL Aligns with our strategic goals for 2022:

LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS WHERE EVERYONE'S SUCCESS MATTERS

- Create a common understanding of the benefits of inclusive schools and develop a shared, systematic approach to ensure that everyone has equitable access and opportunity for successful learning

- Ensure that all staff actively participate in professional development focused on inclusive and culturally proficient practices that improve learning and school cultures

- Analyze data related to academic performance and other indicators of success to identify existing gaps among populations; determine and implement action steps for improvement; and demonstrate success at closing these gaps
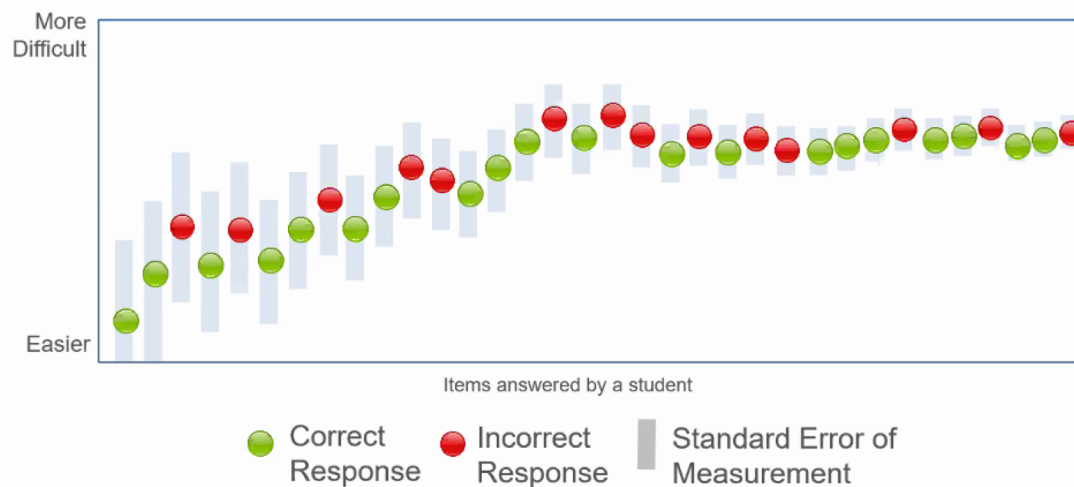
A good TOOL ~ at the right time

- Why we are implementing a universal screener
- What the Star assessment does, and
- How the Star assessment will be useful to us

STAR is an adaptive software program

How computer-adaptive testing works

More Difficult

Easier

Items answered by a student

● Correct Response   ● Incorrect Response   ▮ Standard Error of Measurement

RENAISSANCE

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- Responses to questions reveal student understanding
- The program adjusts based on student answers, both correct and incorrect- this takes time
- The program takes snapshots AND allows us to monitor progress between snapshots

Computer Adaptive Technology (CAT)

RENAISSANCE Star Reading®   RENAISSANCE Star Math®

- Star Reading items assess skills in five key domains

- Star Math items assess skills in four broad domains

- 34 items

- Designed for students in grades 1-12

- Can be given to kindergarten students who have basic reading and math skills

RENAISSANCE Star Early Literacy®

- Items assess skills within three domains – including early numeracy

- 27 items

- Designed for students in pre-K thru 3rd grade

- For beginning readers who do not read independently or need early literacy skills assessed

What will students experience?

Item Time Limits

90 seconds per item
*Extended: 3x

RENAISSANCE
Star Early Literacy®

RENAISSANCE
Star Math®

3 minutes per item
*Extended: 2x

Grades K—2

60 sec per item (first 10 items)
120 sec per item (remaining skill items)
*Extended: 270 sec

RENAISSANCE
Star Reading®

45 sec per item (first 10 items)
90 sec per item (remaining skill items)
*Extended: 3x

Grades 3—12

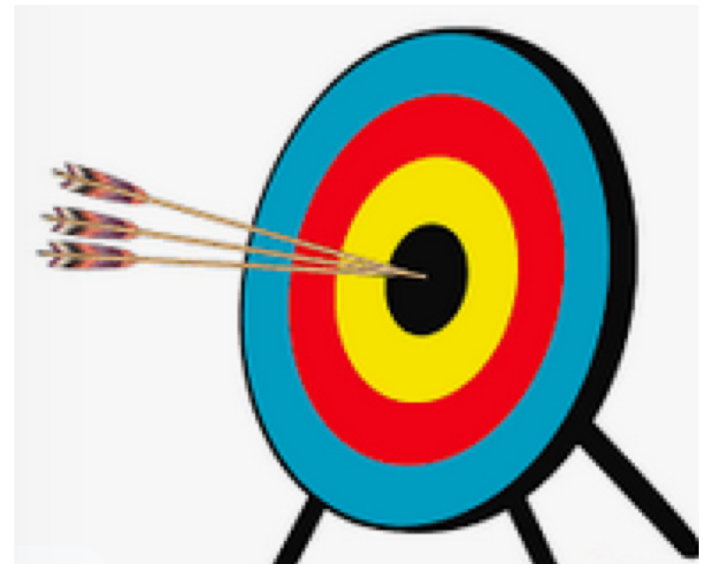# A test score is a snapshot

What's the big picture?

What will we learn?

Student performance is on the Star scale

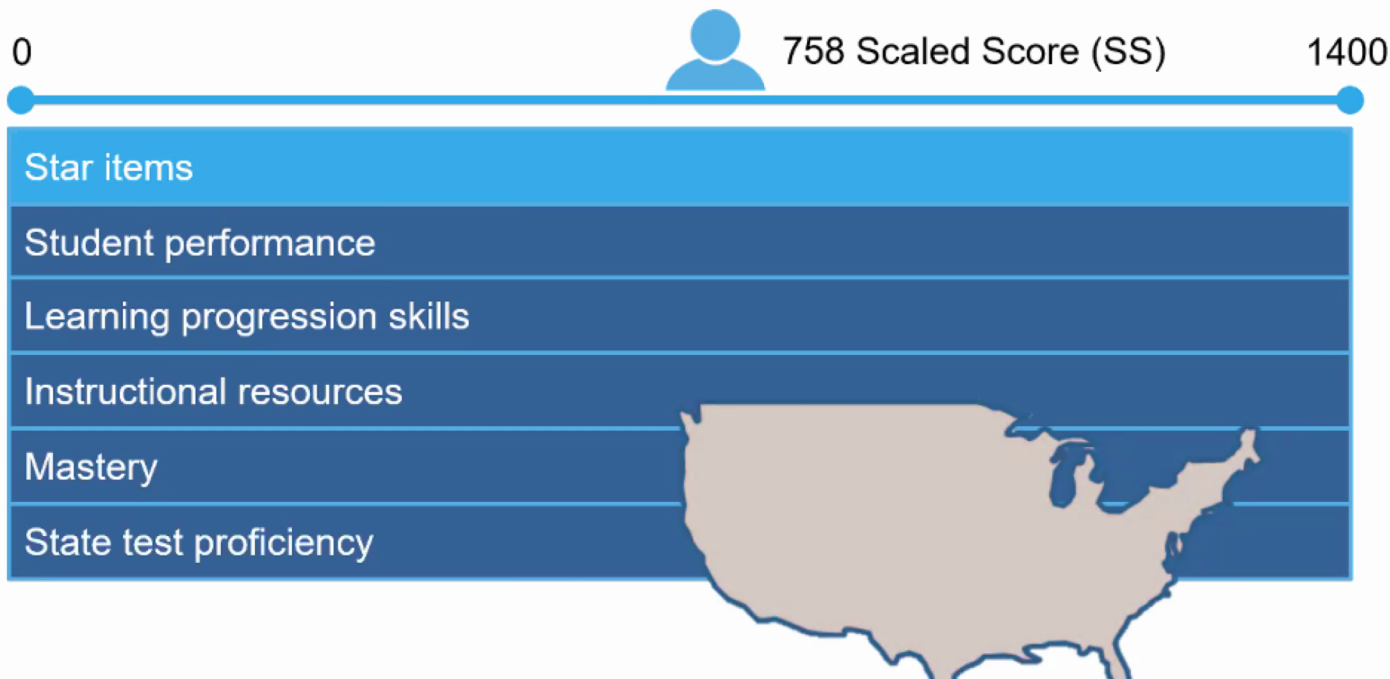0   758 Scaled Score (SS)   1400

Star items

A TOOL to HELP

- Why we are implementing a universal screener
- What the Star assessment is, and
- How the Star assessment will be useful to us

Scaled scores allow us to predict success or struggle
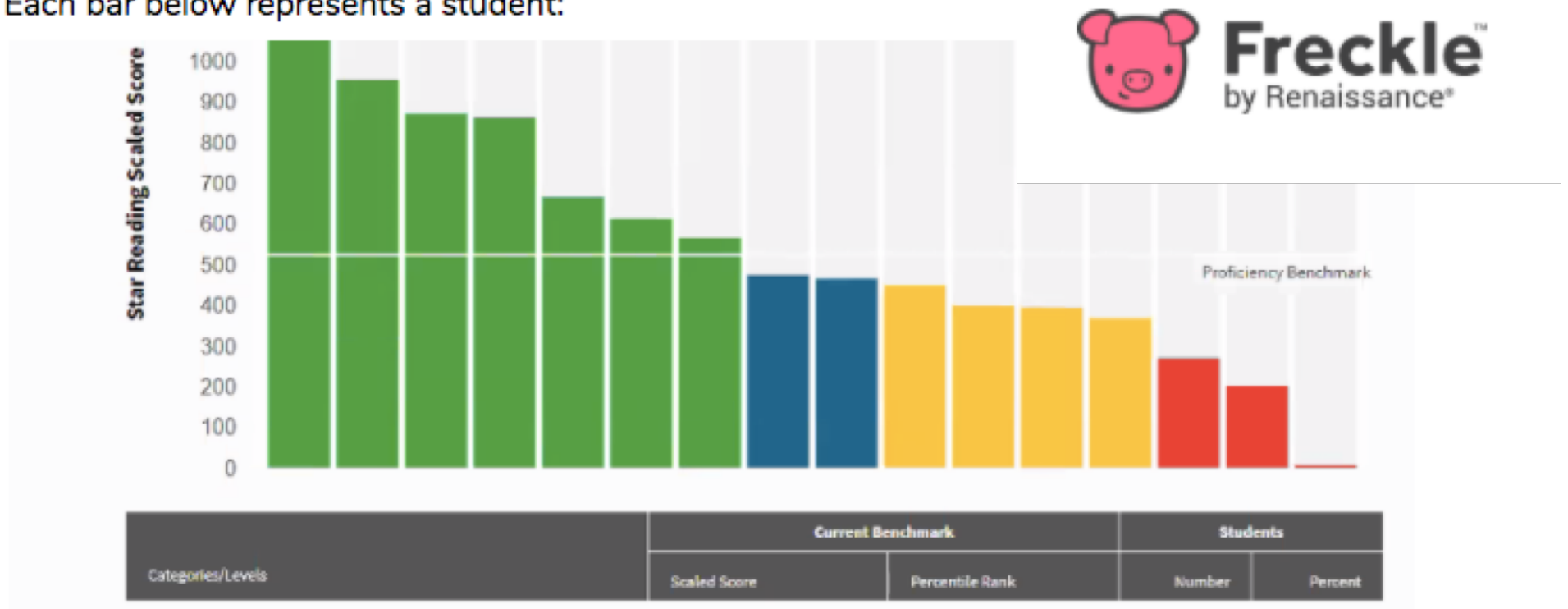
State test proficiency categories are on the Star scale

0   758 Scaled Score (SS)   1400

Star items

Student performance

Learning progression skills

Instructional resources

Mastery

State test proficiency

Let's see what data can do for us

Each bar below represents a student:
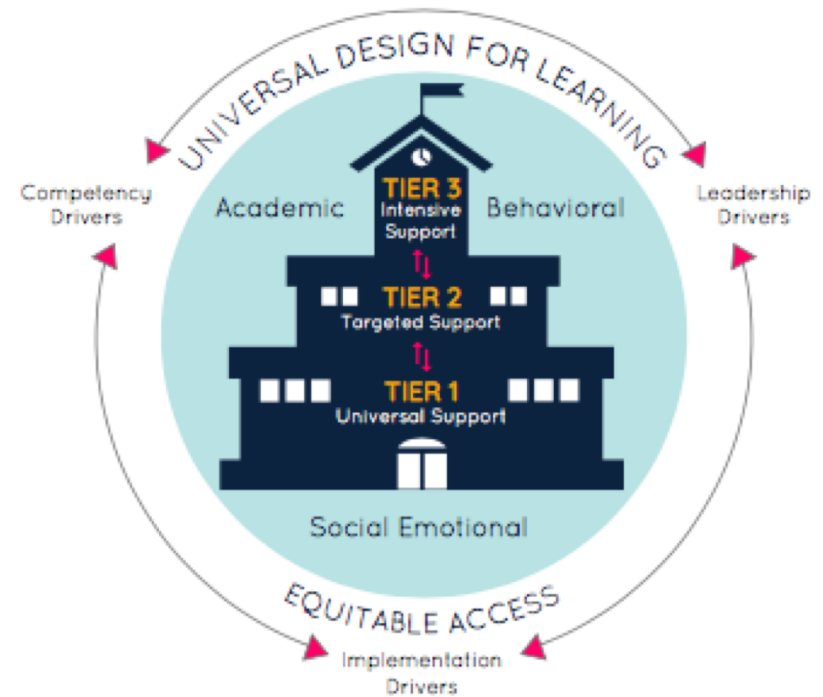
Let's see what what we are doing well with students

The power of a universal screening tool

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What's next?

Important Dates

Testing Administration Schedule

Elementary Target Dates

Test Administration for Students in Cohorts A & B   12/7 & 12/8

Test Administration for Students in Cohort C   12/10 & 12/11

Test Administration for Students in Cohort D   Week of 12/14

Middle Level Target Dates

Test Administration Window, Grades 5-8   12/7-12/18

Test Administration Completion Date for All StudentsDecember 18, 2020

THANKS

Thanks to the following volunteers for going first:

Lynn Pinto	Beal, Kindergarten
Jen Flemming	Coolidge Grade 1
Ani Marold	Floral Grade 3
Meghan Kelley	Floral Grade 3
Nicole Cormier	Paton Grade 4
Lindsey Halloran	Spring Grade 2
Vickie McCarthy	Sherwood Grade 5
Moira Cristy	Sherwood Grade
Sara Heal	Oak Grades 7 & 8
Jen Dufault	Oak Grade 8

QUESTIONS?