



Dear Parents of First-Grade Students in Mississippi,

Mississippi uses a series of assessments for reading in grades K–3. These assessments, developed by Renaissance®, are called Star Early Literacy® and Star Reading® and have been used in Mississippi since 2014 through a contract with the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE). These assessments provide valuable information to teachers and help them to know if their students have met reading expectations for their grade, or if they need additional support to meet expectations in their grade.

Renaissance updated Star Early Literacy and Star Reading with new data related to student expectations for the 2017-18 school year. As a result of these updates, the Renaissance system identified significantly fewer first-grade students in need of additional help or reading interventions.

After discussion with the MDE, for this school year, to best serve your first-grade student, Renaissance is aligning the current target reading scores with the target scores used in previous years. This change is in keeping with what Mississippi has done since 2014 and will allow teachers to continue to look at performance in reading during the first-grade year.

Your child's school will re-run first-grade reports from the beginning of the year and will complete mid-year screening in the coming weeks. First-grade students will not require retesting, as both reports will include newly aligned reading target scores that better identify students in need of extra support.

Under Mississippi's *Literacy-Based Promotion Act*, if your first-grade child needs extra support in reading, you will receive more information from your school or classroom teacher.

We offer our most sincere apologies for the issues related to the Star Reading updates and how this change may have affected some of our first-grade students and classroom teachers in Mississippi.

Regards,

Paula K. O'Gorman

Senior Vice President, Strategic Partnerships  
Renaissance