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Dr. Michelle Cardwell, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Parent/Guardians of K-8 Students:

This email is to provide you with information regarding changes related to assessments given in the district for the upcoming school year.

The New York State Department of Education has changed their requirements for our teacher evaluation process for the 2016-2017 school year and beyond. One of the benefits of this change is our ability to reduce the number of assessments we need to administer to our students. Going forward we will no longer have to administer pre and post-tests for all subject areas like we have had to do the past couple of years.

At the same time, the Wappingers CSD has identified a need for a new assessment system (not related to teacher evaluation) that will allow us to support instruction and align additional services children may need to support their individual academic growth.

Based on feedback from our faculty and staff the district has decided to use a program called [i-Ready](#) for grades K-8 as our solution to support these efforts. Using i-Ready as a universal screener for ELA and Math will allow us to systemically assess all students in our schools, and will provide critical information to help us better educate your children.

We anticipate that all students will take their first i-Ready assessment in either September or October. In addition, you will receive parent reports which indicate your child's progress as well as information on how your child can access the system for additional activities. Information about these reports and accessing the system will come from our building Principals.

All students are expected to participate in the i-Ready system as it is an integral component of our instructional program. Although we are required to inform the State Education Department of our testing tool, we feel it is important to mention that the information we collect in this system will be used for internal use only and that none of the information will be shared with New York State or its data collection process. What we find most exciting is that we will be able to provide parents with timely information regarding your child's academic strengths.

If you have any questions about this new assessment system, please contact your building principal or simply reply to this message at plans@wcsdny.org.

Sincerely

Dr. Michelle Cardwell
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction