Early Literacy Assessment Tool (ELAT) Project Letter of Intent 2019-2020

The 2012 School Finance Act required the Colorado Department of Education to select a contractor to supply an early literacy assessment tool that teachers may use to obtain real-time assessments of the reading skill levels of students in kindergarten through third grade, in support of the READ Act.
In the spring of 2018 through a new competitive process the award was made to both Amplify and Istation for the approved interim assessments on both platforms. The new contract duration is for the next five years.
Pending legislative approval during the 2019 session, the department will offer the project for the 2019-2020 school year. This is a non-competitive project. The Early Literacy Assessment Tool Project (ELAT) will include a letter of intent this fall (2018) for participation in the 2019-2020 school year. The letter of intent process will allow for a more timely budget request from the Joint Budget Committee.

The letter of intent process will be open **October 15, 2018** and close **November 16, 2018** at 11:59 pm. The letter of intent process will inform our ask for funding from the Joint Budget Committee, therefore, districts that do not submit a letter of intent will not be considered in the application process. The application process for the project will open January 3, 2019, and close January 31, 2019. Continue with this survey to read a full description of the project as well as the requirements. Thank you for your time in submitting your letter of intent and please let me know if you have any questions.

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Introduction to the Early Literacy Assessment Tool (ELAT) Project
 The 2012 School Finance Act required the Colorado Department of Education to select a contractor to supply an early literacy assessment tool that teachers may use to obtain real-time assessments of the reading skill levels of students in kindergarten through third grade. The intent of the program was to support state purchase of software that would provide individualized assessments with immediate results, store and analyze those results, and recommend activities based on those results.
In the spring of 2018 through a new competitive process the award was made to both Amplify and Istation for the approved interim assessments on both platforms. The new contract duration is for the next five years.
Pending legislative approval during the 2019 session, the department will offer the project for the 2019-2020 school year. This is a non-competitive project.

By participating in the Early Literacy Assessment Tool Project, applicants will select one of the two vendors and then receive access to the LEA selected online approved READ Act assessment:

- Amplify for DIBELS Next and IDEL, approved interim assessments, and DIBELS Deep PA/WRD diagnostic reading assessment, an approved diagnostic measure.
- Istation for ISIP Early Reading, and ISIP Lectura Temprana, approved interim assessments for the READ Act.

All approved applicants will receive software licenses to use the assessment that they select. The tool will store and analyze the results and recommend school and home activities based on those results. Applicants will be responsible for providing their own hardware.

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Hardware is not included. A list of devices that support the software is available for each vendor:
>   **Amplify:** https://www.amplify.com/assessment/devices
>   **Istation:** https://www.istation.com/support#technical

Purpose

The Early Literacy Assessment Tool is designed to assist teachers in meeting the assessment requirements of the READ Act. The tool will allow teachers to obtain real time assessment of the reading skill levels of students enrolled in kindergarten, first, second, and/or third grades, and, based on the assessment results, generate intervention plans and materials.

Both Platforms will:
- Provide individualized assessments with immediate results;
- Store and analyze assessment results, recommend activities that are aligned with the assessment results, and assist in tracking student performance and identifying strategies to improve student performance;
- Provide student grouping recommendations based on the assessment scores and provide proposed lesson plans on a short term cycle; and
- Assist in generating and populating individualized plans to improve students' reading skills.

Eligible Applicants

All local education agencies (LEAs) may apply. For purposes of this application, "local education agency" means a school district; a charter school that enrolls students in kindergarten, first, second, and/or third grades; or a public school operated by a board of cooperative services (BOCES) that enrolls students in kindergarten and first, second, and/or third grades.

CDE is accepting applications from both new and renewal applicants. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of available licenses, prioritization will occur pursuant to C.R.S. 22-2-14.
1. First preference will be given to LEAs renewing their participation from the 2019-2020 school year; then new LEA applicants will be accepted.
2. Should there need to be a selection process for new LEAs, it will be based on highest percentages of kindergarten and first-, second-, and third-grade students who are below grade level expectations in reading; and LEAs with the highest percentages of schools that are eligible to receive money under Title I of the federal "Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965", 20 U.S.C. sec 6301 et. seq.

Duration of Program

The current RFP will apply to the 2019-2020 school year (Year 7). Participation in subsequent years is dependent upon appropriations and available licenses.

Required Activities

School and District level activities required of the Early Literacy Assessment Tool Project include the following:
- Selection of the assessment through one of the two platforms offered: Amplify or Istation
- Obtain and utilize supported devices to assess kindergarten, first, second, and/or third graders on the approved interim assessment the district selects, either DIBELS Next and IDEL or Istation ISIP and ISIP Lectura Temprana. (Note: the hardware purchase is the district's responsibility.)
- Collection and secure submission of staff and student roster data to the LEA selected vendor:

- o The following demographics will be entered for all students: gender, ethnicity, EL status, and special education status.
  - o Staff identifier information: name and staff e-mail.
- Assessment of all kindergarten, first, second, and third grade students, using the assessment selected by the LEA, in at the three designated benchmark periods.
- Progress monitoring of students. Students well below benchmark or Tier 3 will be progress monitored every 7-10 days, and students below benchmark or Tier 2 will be progress monitored every 10-12 days.

Additional Requirements for New Applicants Only (new to the assessment platform and/or new to the ELAT project):

- Attendance by teachers or designated Local Trainers per school at all face-to-face trainings and any webinar trainings to support first year implementation.
- Assurance that Local Trainers will have training time with teachers at their school to implement what they have been trained on in their sessions.
- Attendance by principals at any scheduled instructional leader full day trainings and/or webinars as scheduled throughout the year.

Evaluation and Reporting

By receiving software licenses, local education agencies agree to share all data collected using the software.

- This data will be shared with Amplify and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) or with Istation and the Colorado Department of Education.
- Data includes:
  - o Student identifier information: names, grades, dates of birth, state, school, school district, and classroom associations, SASID, gender, ethnicity, EL status and, special education status
  - o Staff identifier information: name and staff e-mail; and
  - o Results: records and/or scores for the assessments listed as part of the assessment

- Districts will still be required to submit READ Data through Data Pipeline.
- The data collected is solely used by Amplify and the Colorado Department of Education or Istation and the Colorado Department of Education for the scope of successful implementation of the project. This includes implementation fidelity, achievement and growth results, determination of site visits, and used to direct professional development support.

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Select applicant category.

Early Literacy Assessment Tool 2019-2020: Letter of Intent

* 1. Please select your applicant category:

○ I am a **current participant** in ELAT and **intend to apply** and participate in the 2019-2020 school year.

○ I am a **current participant** in ELAT and I **will not be applying** to participate in the 2019-2020 school year.

○ I am **not currently participating** in the ELAT project but I **intend to apply as a district** to be part of the ELAT project in the 2019-2020 school year.

○ I am **not currently participating** in the ELAT project but I **intend to apply as a single school within a district** to be part of the ELAT project in the 2019-2020 school year.

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I am a **current participant** in ELAT and **intend to apply** and participate in the 2019-2020 school year.

Early Literacy Assessment Tool 2019-2020: Letter of Intent

2. Select vendor:

○ **Amplify** for DIBELS Next and IDEL, approved interim assessments, and DIBELS Deep PA/WRD diagnostic reading assessment, an approved diagnostic measure.

○ **Istation** for ISIP Early Reading, and ISIP Lectura Temprana, approved interim assessments for the READ Act.

3. For current applicants that intend to apply and participate in the 2019-2020 school year:

District/School

Contact Name

Telephone

E-mail Address

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I am a **current participant** in ELAT and **will not be applying** and participate in the 2019-2020 school year.

Early Literacy Assessment Tool 2019-2020: Letter of Intent

2. For current applicants that DO NOT intend to apply and participate in the 2019-2020 school year:

District/School

Contact Name

Telephone

E-mail Address

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I am **not currently participating** in the ELAT project but I **intend to apply as a district** to be part of the ELAT project in the 2019-2020.

Early Literacy Assessment Tool 2019-2020: Letter of Intent

2. Select vendor:

○ **Amplify** for DIBELS Next and IDEL, approved interim assessments, and DIBELS Deep PA/WRD diagnostic reading assessment, an approved diagnostic measure.

○ **Istation** for ISIP Early Reading, and ISIP Lectura Temprana, approved interim assessments for the READ Act.

3. For new applicants that intend to apply and participate as a district in the 2019-2020 school year:

District

Number of participating elementary schools from your district

Total K-3 enrollment for participating schools

Contact Name

Telephone

E-mail Address

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Early Literacy Assessment Tool (ELAT) Project Letter of Intent 2019-2020

I am **not currently participating** in the ELAT project but I **intend to apply as a single school within a district** to be part of the ELAT project in the 2019-2020 school year.

Early Literacy Assessment Tool 2019-2020: Letter of Intent

2. Select vendor:

○ **Amplify** for DIBELS Next and IDEL, approved interim assessments, and DIBELS Deep PA/WRD diagnostic reading assessment, an approved diagnostic measure.

○ **Istation** for ISIP Early Reading, and ISIP Lectura Temprana, approved interim assessments for the READ Act.

3. For new applicants that intend to apply and participate as a single school within a district in the 2019-2020 school year:

District	
School	
Total K-3 enrollment	
Contact Name	
Telephone	
E-mail Address	

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Thank you for your responses. If you have any further questions related to the Early Literacy Assessment Tool Project, please contact Tammy Yetter at Yetter_T@cde.state.co.us or (720) 955-8055.