

[District Name]

[District Address]

[Date]

Dear Families,

We are excited to share that we will be administering new assessments to students this year that will help you and your child's teacher understand how they are progressing in their learning throughout the school year. The North Dakota Academic Progression of Learning and Understanding of Students or ND A-PLUS (ND A+) is a new, connected system of assessments that includes state-provided interim assessments. Interim assessments are short, untimed assessments that take approximately 30 minutes to complete. ND A+ Interim Assessments are administered in the fall, the winter, and the spring in both reading and math. Students will take ND A+ Interim Assessments online, and our teachers will receive the results immediately.

ND A+ Interim Assessments will provide a measure of how well your student is performing in reading and math. In addition, for grades 3-8, ND A+ Interim Assessments will provide Lexile scores for reading and Quantile scores for math. A link will be included in your child's report where you can access resources on things you can do at home to support them.

The ND A+ Interim Assessments reports will also contain information to support conversations with your child's teacher about their learning. Because ND A+ is also a growth measure, teachers can discuss with families how much students have improved from fall to winter and winter to spring.

These conversations may include questions you have, such as the following examples:

1. My child made significant progress in math but not as much in reading. What can I do at home to support his or her reading?
2. My child seems to be doing really well in both subject areas. What are some enrichment activities to keep him or her engaged in learning?
3. My child seems to be struggling with Measurement and Data. Is there any support the school can provide specifically for Measurement and Data?

We know that tests can cause some students anxiety. ND A+ Interim Assessments are designed for students to show what they know and can do at three checkpoints during a school year. Encourage your child to try their best so that you and their teacher can track their progress and support them in any areas where they may need help. Please support your child by making sure they get a good night's sleep the night before and eat a healthy breakfast on the day of testing.

It's also important to remember that ND A+ Interim Assessments are just one group of assessments. Teachers also monitor grades and use other information from the classroom to know how to best address your child's needs. If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's teacher. We appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

[District Representative]