



## Lincoln Public Schools Lincoln, Massachusetts

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To: School Committee  
From: Mary Sterling, Assistant Superintendent  
Re: Update on Pilot and Plan for District Growth Measures (DDM)  
Date: May 2, 2014

Administrators and teachers continue to focus on a key priority in the district Strategic Plan under Assessment and Data: "Refine and pilot our District Determined Measures." Since our midyear report on January 9, teachers have finished their selection and/or development of these assessments and most have completed trying them out with students. As the pilot process has unfolded, teachers have discussed what they have learned from the evidence from baseline measures, the preparation and administration of benchmark measures, and the comparison of results. This final phase of analyzing results is underway now and will continue through mid-May. For the most part, these results are instructive about the merits of the assessment content and procedures, and some results may provide individual teachers with worthwhile evidence of student learning.

A pilot serves the purpose of creating a bounded time to try something new and reflect on its worth. At this time, we are seeking teacher perspective on the value of these measures and we will use their input for the development of the 2014-15 district plan. Here are some of the questions about Growth Measures that we are asking groups of teachers to reflect upon in the next few weeks:

1. Does the measure effectively assess what is most important for students to know and be able to do?
2. Does the measure provide valuable information to the teacher and the district about student growth?
3. What information from the initial baseline measure has been useful in planning instruction going forward?
4. In what ways do the results on the summative benchmark measure show growth when compared to the baseline measure?
5. Are there aspects of the baseline and/or benchmark measures that need revision? And if so, what revisions would make the measures more valuable?
6. What are some of the logistical considerations that will need to be addressed to make these measures both meaningful and manageable?

Once all the input has been gathered and analyzed, the district plan will be assembled and submitted to the Massachusetts DESE on June 1. In addition, our experiences of these Growth Measures and all the teacher input will help guide us in planning to use them in purposeful and manageable ways in the coming year. We recognize that there are some challenges that lie ahead in establishing a balance among competing priorities: adhering to the state expectations, keeping the load reasonable for teachers, and finding value for the benefit of our students. At the School Committee presentation on May 8, we will share some of the input gained from teachers and discuss some possible next steps for the district.