Guidance on Summer Melt
Idaho Reading Indicator with Istation

WHAT IS SUMMER MELT?

Summer melt, or learning loss, is the loss of learning students experience over the summer during a long break from school.

The purpose of this document is to guide districts in being able to assess students' summer learning melt, also known as learning loss.

PREFERRED APPROACH

We suggest using this first approach to measure students' summer learning loss:
- Test students as normally in the fall.
- By default, when the students first log in, they will receive the regular monthly assessment.
- The students will likely have some subtests in common between their last spring test and their first fall test.
- Districts can compare the scale score on that subtest from one time period to the other. Unlike the tiers which are normed by grade, those scale scores are comparable across time.
- Districts can also compare the overall reading score from spring to fall.
- This composite may be based on different subtests, but is a consistent measure of early reading ability.

SECONDARY APPROACH

A secondary approach can also be used:
- If districts want to have fall results on all of the subtests that a student saw during their last spring test, they can schedule on demand assessments for those tests.
- Those additional subtests need to be scheduled at least a day later than the first monthly fall test.
- The system only computes one composite score per day, so if the additional on demand subtests were taken in the same day as the default battery, the score we keep for official fall reporting would be affected.
- Taking additional on demand assessments will modify the students' overall reading score in the Istation portal. That change can affect their near-term future test routing.
- However, any variation should dissipate if the student continues to participate in regular progress monitoring without adding more on demand tests in later months.
- The modified score in the portal will not affect our reporting, assuming the rule above about testing at least one day later is observed, since we can identify the first generated overall score, which should be based on the default battery.