RENAISSANCE at home

FOR ADMINISTRATORS:
Remote Testing Considerations for Star Assessments

RENAISSANCE
Star Assessments

As schools and MATs are navigating through the new normal of remote instruction, administrators are faced with making unprecedented decisions, including decisions regarding assessment. Under normal circumstances, we would not recommend that schools administer Star Assessments remotely. However, we want to provide clear information to help you make the decisions about whether to include assessments as part of your instruction plans.

Assessments are only useful if they are administered as intended, which makes extra preparation for remote testing essential. We encourage educators to stress the importance of mimicking a normal standardized testing environment. The assessments should take place in as similar conditions as possible to the degree it can be achieved remotely. During a standard administration of Star, a teacher or test monitor would observe students while taking the test. Therefore, Renaissance recommends that best practices for the remote administration of Star may also include a teacher or test monitor observing students taking the assessment using a video conferencing tool. If you are conducting remote lessons, it may be that you use a lesson for Star testing so that you can monitor the process and be on hand to answer any questions. Ensuring this level of test fidelity and security will lead to data you can trust, and Renaissance is carefully monitoring and analysing response data to ensure the ongoing integrity of Star results.

Renaissance always believes you know what is best for your students and deciding whether to administer Star remotely requires thoughtful consideration. We are offering this tool to help you gauge the impact each consideration will have on your ability to administer Star remotely and make the right decision for your school.

Questions to consider	Yes	No	Somewhat
Testing environment & context: *When planning for remote test administration, it's important to provide a testing environment that mimics a normal standardized testing environment to the greatest degree possible.*			
Will all students have access to an environment that will be free of distractions?			
Do all students have access to a device that meets the technical requirements for administering a Star test?			
Have you revised your original assessment calendar to include dates and schedules for remote testing?			
Have you consulted all necessary stakeholders that need to be involved in the decision-making process regarding testing remotely?			
Ability to invigilate remotely: *Ideally, remote tests (like onsite tests) should be invigilated by a staff member.*			
Do teachers and students have access to video conferencing tools that may be used to invigilate a test remotely?			
Are teachers adequately trained to invigilate tests remotely?			
Do you have processes in place to ensure fidelity of testing in a remote setting?			
Have you ensured there are no IP restrictions on Renaissance Place?			
Have you referred to the best practices regarding the monitor password? (See below)			
Do you have a communication plan for parents and guardians to establish expectations and share the monitor password if necessary?			
Uses of assessment data: *The decision to invigilate tests remotely should also take into account how the assessment data will be used.*			
Will Star data from the summer of 2020 be used to make instructional decisions?*			
Does the benefit of having the assessment data outweigh the time and effort needed to administer the test with fidelity?			

*We do not recommend administering Star Assessments remotely if the intended use is educator evaluation, class or year level setting, or similar high stakes outcomes.

Best Practices for the Star Monitor Password with Remote Administration

The monitor password is used to start a test or to stop/pause a test before the student finishes. This provides an added level of test fidelity and security. Below are suggested best practices for using the monitor password with remote administration of Star assessments. The Renaissance Place admin can manage the Star monitor password under Star Reading > Preferences > Class Preferences.

a) Change the password and provide it to parents, guardians, or test monitors to use during a defined period of time (e.g., one day, between certain hours over multiple days). As soon as the defined testing time is over, change the password to prevent testing outside those windows.

b) Define testing times and disable the password just for that specific time frame to allow students to test without a monitor entering the password. When you turn it back on after that testing time frame, students will no longer be able to test.