

## *Frequently Asked Questions about...*

### **On-Demand Writing**

Q1. When I enter my students' On-Demand Writing scores into DataDirector it only allows me to enter one character. How do I enter Below Basic (BB) scores?

A1. On-Demand Writing scores have been converted to a single digit character based on a rubric, which can be found in DataDirector. Teachers will use the provided rubric to input the scores: 1=Below Basic; 2=Basic; 3=Proficient; 4=Advanced.

Q2. Where can I find the On-Demand Writing rubric and instructions in DataDirector?

A2. In DataDirector select the Assessment tab, then the 2009-10 On-Demand Writing test. Here you will find the rubrics, instructions, and writing prompt posted and available for printing.

Q3. Are schools required to enter scores for On-Demand Writing for all units, 1-7?

A3. The On-Demand Writing assessment is to help inform instruction, so entering scores in DataDirector for On-Demand Writing is optional, not required. However, sites must do the initial assessment. The units 1-7 are not mandatory.

Q4. The writing rubrics have 2-3 different areas in which students' writing is graded: writing applications, writing strategies and conventions – each of which a student can score a 1, 2, 3 or 4. However, DataDirector only allows teachers to enter one composite score. Should teachers average the scores students receive in each area and enter that score, or is only one area to be entered?

A4. The On-Demand Writing scores are used as baseline information to support instructional planning and grouping. Since this data is for site use only and is not being collected centrally, schools and teachers may: (1) aggregate the three scores into a single score, or (2) choose to record data for one strand only.

Q5. How can I use the On-Demand Writing data to support my instruction?

A5. The On-Demand Writing Screening Assessment for grades K-8 was designed to provide baseline information that could be used to support instructional planning and grouping. Teachers are encouraged to use either the Narrative Writing Rubric or the Informational/Expository Rubric to support their analyses. The writing rubrics are designed to conform to the content strands, so they yield three scores: writing applications, writing strategies, and writing convention.

Q6. Will there be any changes to the On-Demand Writing Assessment next year?

A6. The Instructional Support Services Division will develop scoring guides for the 2010 implementation of the screening assessments in order to offer teachers a more standardized way to score and record baseline information. These guides will mirror those that have been developed to score the STAR Writing Assessments and the End-of-Unit Writing Prompts.