



## **BAY-ARENAC ISD SELECTS ONLINE ASSESSMENT TOOL TO MEASURE STUDENTS' MASTERY OF STATE STANDARDS**

BAY CITY, MI (April 4, 2008) – Teachers and administrators in the Bay-Arenac ISD region will soon benefit from up-to-date information on student progress provided throughout the school year by a new online formative assessment system.

With the help of Bay-Arenac ISD, eight local school districts have collaborated to purchase *STIAssessment*, a web-based formative assessment creation and data tracking system. The contract with STI, a leading provider of education data management systems, includes implementation, training and product use. The system will be rolled out to Arenac-Eastern Schools, Bangor Township Schools, Bay-Arenac Community High School, Bay City Public Schools, Bay County Public School Academy, Essexville-Hampton Public Schools, Pinconning Area Schools, and Standish-Sterling Community Schools in July of this year.

Following implementation and training, teachers can use *STIAssessment* to create and administer online formative assessments and gather data detailing student performance on state standards. Formative assessments—also called benchmark assessments or classroom assessments—are planned activities such as weekly quizzes and chapter tests. They are designed to provide evidence of student learning and pinpoint areas for instructional modifications throughout not only the school year, but throughout the students' academic careers. These assessments are part of an ongoing, active learning process. Formative assessment is one of the multiple student achievement measurements the Bay-Arenac ISD uses to gauge success and meet mandated educational goals under the No Child Left Behind Act.

“*STI Assessment* is an important step toward meeting our student achievement goals and state accountability mandates,” explained Superintendent Michael Dewey of Bay-Arenac ISD. “School districts nationwide are expanding their formative assessment programs because a growing number of studies shows formative assessment significantly improves student learning and helps close the achievement gap.”

With *STIAssessment*, teachers can create, administer and score assessments quickly. Teachers can easily develop formative assessments using the system's large bank of questions that are correlated to state curriculum standards, or they can create their own questions. Testing can be conducted online or on paper, with teachers as well as students receiving immediate results regardless of the method. Using real-time results, teachers can identify clearly which standards a student or the whole class has not mastered. Guided by these findings, they can take the necessary steps to tailor instruction that will help their students improve instead of falling ever farther behind.

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Administrators are able to compile reports of aggregate and disaggregate data in the STI system to meet local and federal reporting requirements. Assessment data of student subgroups are used to make critical decisions regarding resource allocation, budgeting, and professional development.

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