

# ASSESSMENT PLAN FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2004-2005

## Important Information for Staff and Parents

The Readington Township School District has selected a new achievement test named *TerraNova, The Second Edition*, to be used in its testing program beginning September 20, 2004. It will be administered in grades 1, 2, 5, & 7. It is published by CTB/McGraw-Hill, a company that we have worked with for many years. The second edition of the *TerraNova* was selected because it most closely aligns with our curriculum content and the New Jersey Curriculum Standards. It does an excellent job of measuring the skills taught in our school district and across the nation. The second edition will provide an accurate "national norm" to help us compare the achievement of our students with that of students in schools across the country.

The test results will also help to evaluate the progress of each child in acquiring basic and higher order thinking skills in Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, and the challenging skills required by the NJ State Tests – NJ ASK and GEPA. The information that this testing provides will help our teaching staff plan instructional activities that focus on areas of greatest need.

In addition, students in grades 2 will be taking the InView Level 1 and in grade 5 the InView Level 2 on September 14, 2004. The InView is an innovative new cognitive abilities test that reliably measures skills and abilities that are important for academic success. This assessment of cognitive abilities includes verbal reasoning, sequences, analogies, and quantitative reasoning. When teamed with the *TerraNova, The Second Edition*, InView provides anticipated achievement scores. These show realistic and expected scores for both individual students and groups.

Finally, the district will embark on an exciting initiative involving electronic assessments. With i-know online assessments, educators are assured of curriculum-focused test content and analytic reports that translate test results into meaningful, relevant information that supports sound teaching decisions. The i-know assessments are formative, skill building tests in the key subject areas of reading, mathematics, science, and social studies for students in grades 3 through 8.

Online testing is a time-saving instructional tool that gives teachers the ability to instantly know their students' grasp of specific subject content at different grade levels. They are easy to administer and easy to use and provide test scores and analytical reports within seconds. Teachers get the immediate information they need about students' skills to effectively target instructional strategies and impact student achievement.

The assessments will be given in the fall for diagnostic purposes in order to gauge student learning and to plan for effective instruction. Professional development will be provided for our staff so that there will be effective implementation of this testing program. A Parent Information Workshop on Understanding the Home Report will be held on Tuesday, October 19, 2004.