

Electronic Education Report



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Wireless Generation Will Be Used to Assess K-2 Students Across Indiana

The Indiana Department of Education last month selected Wireless Generation (Brooklyn, N.Y.) assessments for use across the state for K-2 reading and math formative assessment. Wireless Generation's handheld computer-based assessments are intended to help Indiana teachers target instruction to student needs and monitor progress toward mastery.

Wireless Generation and Indiana signed a two-year contract valued at \$1.6 million in the first year and \$1.8 million in the second year. Over 150 schools in Indiana are already using Wireless Generation reading assessments in their classrooms, many for as long as four years.

Wireless Generation assessments employ handheld computers, which are linked to a Web-connected computer that uploads the data to a secure Web site where it can be reported at the student, class, district or demographic sub-population level.

While all states have a testing program that begins in third grade, Indiana is the first state to implement a comprehensive formative assessment for every K-2 classroom, although other states are evaluating similar initiatives, according to Wireless Generation.

"Research has shown that early screening and intervention can prevent learning problems from snowballing, and can keep many children from requiring special education services," said Larry Berger, Wireless Generation's CEO and cofounder. ■