FY2018-2019 Revisions and Additions to the STAR Handbook
October, 2017

- Page 2: The order of sections has changed, and is reflected in the revised Table of Contents.

- Page 4, 4th paragraph: The sentence beginning “STAR Participants must commit to” has been revised to be more explicit about requirements. For existing STAR programs, there are no new requirements since FY17. Programs that choose not to follow these policies may not be labeled as STAR in their approved class plans.

- Page 5: Contact Information may be found on this page, moved up in the document for ease of navigation. There are two new Massachusetts STAR trainers who have been certified by national STAR. Leadership at ACLS for STAR has changed from Marie Narvaez to Jane Schwerdtfeger.

- Page 6: Under Student Assessment, there is a link to an FAQ about Educational Functioning levels (EFLs).

- Page 7, 1st paragraph: STAR programs must administer a diagnostic reading assessment to every STAR student, but now may administer either the Diagnostic Assessments of Reading (DAR) Interpretive Profile, 2nd edition, or other diagnostic assessments (some free) recommended on LINCS’ Assessment Strategies and Reading Profiles Web page and on LINCS diagnostic test resources.

- Pages 7-8: The sections Beginning a Diagnostic Reading Assessment, Converting MAPT Scale Scores to Grade Level Equivalents (GLEs), and Why Do We Need to Know Grade Level Equivalents (GLEs)? are all new sections.

- Page 8, 2nd paragraph: There is new information regarding options for conducting the DAR Silent Reading Comprehension test.

- Page 8: Information in the section Administering the DAR has been slightly revised; reference is made to the Comprehension Interview/Student Questionnaire in Appendix C.

- Page 9: Information in the section Pre- and Post-Testing for Educational Functioning Level (EFL) Gains has changed somewhat.

- Page 9: There is a new section header, Entering and Reviewing Data on Student Outcomes, the section SMARTT Class Plan Information has changed.

- Page 10: There is a new header, Program Planning for Sustainability, and some of the information in the sub-headers, Managed Enrollment (p. 10) and Intensity (p. 11), has changed.

- Page 11: Under the Training New Staff and Planning for Staff Turnover sub-header, there is a new emphasis on contacting the program’s Program Specialist and Merilee Freeman when a STAR teacher leaves a STAR-labeled class.
• Page 11: Under the Volunteers sub-header, volunteers may attend the STAR and/or EBRI trainings and if they attend trainings on administering diagnostic assessments offered by SABES, they may administer those to students.

• Pages 11-12: Under a new header, Program Support for STAR Teachers, there are new recommendations from a STAR director on how to support STAR instruction.

• Pages 12-13: Under a new header, State and National Support for STAR Programs, there is new information under the sub-header Initial Training.

• Page 13: Under a new header Classroom Observations by Program Directors, there is some new and newly emphasized information.

• Page 14: Under the header, Technical Assistance and Classroom Observations by STAR TA Providers, some of the information in the first two paragraphs and in the sub-headers Before the Class Observation: Required Preparation and After the Class Observation has changed in an effort to simplify the process.

• Page 15: Under Appendix A: Glossary, the entries for Diagnostic Assessment, Explicit Instruction, and Managed Enrollment have changed for better clarity.

• Page 16: Under Appendix B: DAR Administration Cheat Sheet for STAR, some of the directions have been changed and updated, page numbers are given for both Forms A and B, and there is an option regarding administering the Silent Reading Comprehension test.

• Page 17: Appendix C: STAR Comprehension Interview/Student Questionnaire Form is now included in the handbook for ease of use. It was previously found in the STAR Toolkit, and is required to be used with STAR students.

• Page 18: Appendix D: Planning Menu of STAR Instructional Strategies lists strategies that may change during FY2018 during the piloting of the revised STAR training. ACLS will inform ABE programs if and when changes occur.