

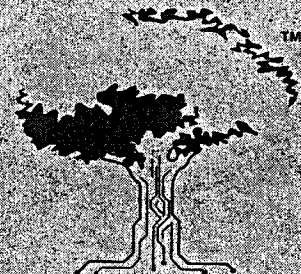
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The Grow Network™

THE MATERIALS ENCLOSED are designed to showcase the work that the Grow Network is doing throughout the country.

Samples of existing state assessment reports are included to illustrate the difficulty that parents, educators, and principals currently have extracting meaning from the information provided. We also included examples of materials developed by the Grow Network as part of our system to link assessment data to instruction and practice.

The Grow Network appreciates your time and looks forward to continued conversations about our commitment to education throughout the states.

THIS EXHIBIT IS **31** PAGES LONG.
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The Grow Network™

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ASSEMBLY EDUCATION

DATE: 3/12/03 ROOM: 3143 EXHIBIT C

SUBMITTED BY: JENNIFER LUKIA

The Grow Network™

USING ASSESSMENT TO TRANSFORM TEACHING AND LEARNING



THE GROW NETWORK IS AN INNOVATIVE EDUCATION COMPANY WITH A UNIQUE MISSION: TO TRANSFORM ASSESSMENT RESULTS INTO INSTRUCTIONAL TOOLS FOR TEACHERS, PRINCIPALS, AND PARENTS.

The Grow Network was founded three years ago to address a critical gap in assessment. Despite the growing importance of testing throughout grades K-12, the results are rarely used to improve instruction.

We have conducted hundreds of focus groups with thousands of teachers, principals, district leaders, and parents to understand how to make data truly useful. Through this work, we have developed the Grow Network system of integrated print reports, web tools, instructional materials, and professional development that transforms the results of large-scale assessments into clear and effective tools for action.

THE GROW NETWORK PROVIDES:

- 1 *Clear Test Reports* that invite the question, "What can I do to help my students grow?"
- 2 *Web Tools* that are easy to use and give access to student, class, and grade-level performance.
- 3 *Instructional Materials* that build teacher understanding of the standards and suggest appropriate classroom activities and teaching strategies.
- 4 *Professional Development* that ensures effective use of our materials and gathers feedback to inform continuous improvement.

THE GROW NETWORK IN NEW YORK CITY, CHICAGO, AND BEYOND

During the last two years, we delivered Grow Reports throughout NYC schools and received an overwhelmingly positive response from teachers, principals, parents, and school leaders. As the system-wide assessment partner of the NYC Department of Education, we are responsible for reporting on the math and reading performance of 450,000 students in 3rd to 8th grades.

The Grow Network is expanding this year to deliver its reports, web tools, instructional materials, and professional development programs to more than 200,000 students in Chicago Public Schools. The Grow Network also operates projects in other states.

THE GROW NETWORK IS BUILT UPON COLLABORATION

The Grow Network has brought together a group of exceptional educators to lead our math and reading efforts, as well as a first-rate design and technology team that enables us to communicate effectively with educators, parents, and students. We work closely with school leaders, teachers, and parents to develop superb tools that enhance students' learning. Through these collaborations, our work is tailored to state and local standards and deeply influenced by local educational priorities and approaches.

THE GROW NETWORK
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Reactions to the Grow Report

The response to the Grow Reports in New York City has been overwhelmingly positive. Perhaps the best news of all is that more than 95% of the schools in New York City actively used their personal Grow Network accounts. In such a short period of time, this level of usage is remarkable.

From the Teachers' Union

The Grow Network tools are among the most important tools I have seen in a long time, maybe ever.... [W]hat the Grow Network has done here is it has taken data and made it useful for teachers.

— RANDI WEINGARTEN, *President
United Federation of Teachers*

From Superintendents

People feel that [the Grow Report] is the one report that captures everything: it looks at data, it's aligned with the standards, it's aligned with assessment, and it also focuses on instructional techniques. It's a complete package.

— LESTER YOUNG, *Community
Superintendent, District 13*

From the Head of Assessment and Accountability

The Grow Reports represent a quantum leap in assessment reporting well beyond anything that either the Division of Assessment and Accountability has been able to produce or other publishers have been able to produce in the past.

— ROBERT TOBIAS, *Then-Executive
Director, Division of Assessment for
NYC Public Schools*

From Principals

I am truly amazed at the useful information. I printed out the class skills and then the lessons the teacher can use to support the teaching of a specific area....Thank you so much!!! *It's a great tool for differentiation of instruction.*

— PRINCIPAL, *NYC Public Schools*

From the Head of Instruction

[T]here has been universal approval of the Grow Network reports. It is rare in my business that you see something that everybody likes.

— JUDITH RIZZO, *Then-Deputy Chancellor
of Instruction, NYC Public Schools*

From Teachers

Just wanted to let you know that I am quite impressed with all that the Grow Network has to offer this year. *There is a multitude of information to support teacher knowledge and student needs....The student activities provided are plentiful and worthwhile. As you can see, I'm impressed!*

— "VETERAN" *4th grade teacher,
NYC Public Schools*