



UNDERSTANDING ACADEMIC SCREENING TOOLS

WHAT IS AN ACADEMIC SCREENING TOOL?

Screening tools are brief, reliable, and valid assessments used to assist educators with identifying students who are at-risk or not at risk for specific academic



difficulties and or dyslexia. Universal screening tools have the following characteristics:

- Quick and targeted assessments of discrete skills that indicate whether students are making adequate progress in reading achievement
- Alternate equivalent forms so they can be administered three to four times a year
- Standardized directions for administration and scoring
- Established reliability and validity standards
- Culturally and linguistically responsive for Washington students

WHY USE ACADEMIC SCREENING TOOLS?



- Screening tools serve the purpose of assessing how well all students are responding to core instruction and if a student is at risk for reduced learning outcomes.
- Screening tools can provide schools and educators with data to modify or adjust core instruction or if a new or additional intervention is needed.
- Data from screening tools may help schools and districts evaluate the effectiveness of their instruction and intervention program(s).

CONSIDERATIONS FOR USING ACADEMIC SCREENING TOOLS



Screening instruments, including those for learning disabilities, have most or all of the following characteristics:

- Helpful in determining the need for future testing,
- Quick to administer, score, and interpret,
- Appropriate for large numbers of persons.