

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The teachers and administrators at Allen East Elementary are committed to helping your child become a successful reader. As part of this commitment, our district uses the Universal Screener, Acadience Reading, to help us examine how your child is doing in learning important reading skills. Acadience Reading measures the acquisition of literacy skills and is composed of six brief measures. These measures provide useful information on essential skills that every child must master to become a proficient reader. These measures will be used to monitor the development of literacy skills in order to provide timely instructional support. Acadience Reading is a diagnostic assessment of literacy skills.

Acadience Reading is comprised of six measures:

1. **First Sound Fluency (FSF):** The assessor says words, and the student says the first sound for each word.
2. **Letter Naming Fluency (LNF):** The student is presented with a sheet of letters and asked to name the letters.
3. **Phoneme Segmentation Fluency (PSF):** The assessor says words, and the student says the individual sounds in each word.
4. **Nonsense Word Fluency (NWF):** The student is presented with a list of VC and CVC nonsense words (e.g., sig, rav, ov) and asked to read the words.
5. **Oral Reading Fluency (ORF):** The student is presented with a reading passage and asked to read aloud. The student is then asked to retell what he/she just read.
6. **Maze:** The student is presented with a reading passage in which some words are replaced by a multiple choice box that includes the original word and two distractors. The student reads the passage silently and selects the word in each box that best fits the meaning of the sentence.

These measures were designed to be efficient indicators of a student's essential early literacy skills. All K-4 students will be assessed a minimum of three times per year using Acadience Reading as a benchmark. Benchmark assessment refers to testing all students within a school or grade. The information gained from the assessment is used for the purpose of identifying students who may be at risk for reading difficulties. The benchmark assessment is always conducted using grade-level material. These assessments are not used to grade your child. Our goal is to make sure that every child is on target for success, and we thank you for your efforts at home. Together, we will help your child become a successful reader.