

Understanding mCLASS DIBELS 8th Edition

Dear caregiver,

Your support at home is essential to helping your child become a capable, confident reader.

This guide will help you understand the reading assessments your child may take during the school year.

In it, you'll find answers to commonly asked questions about mCLASS® DIBELS® 8th Edition assessments, as well as ways to check for your child's grasp of these foundational reading skills.

Sincerely,

–The Amplify team

1. What is DIBELS?

DIBELS stands for Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills, and represents a system of assessments that allow teachers and schools to determine how students in grades K–6 are performing on important reading skills.

2. What skills are measured by DIBELS?

The skills assessed with mCLASS DIBELS 8th Edition include:

- **Phonemic awareness:** hearing and using the smallest units of sound in spoken words.
- **Phonics:** matching the sounds of spoken English with individual letters or groups of letters.
- **Fluency:** reading text with proper speed, accuracy, and expression.
- **Comprehension:** reading text and understanding its meaning.

Examples of these skills are provided in the table on page 2.

3. Which assessments will my child take?

DIBELS 8th Edition assessments are assigned to students based on their grade level. The table on page 2 shares which skills are assessed in each grade.

4. How often are students assessed?

Benchmark assessments will be administered to all students three times during the school year: in the fall, winter, and spring. Teachers may also use mCLASS DIBELS 8th Edition to progress monitor some students or check specific skill areas for growth in between these assessments. Progress monitoring checks can be done anywhere from once weekly to once every six weeks and involve giving students only one or two individual assessments each time.

5. How long do these assessments take?

Each of the individual DIBELS assessments takes about one minute to complete. Benchmark assessments (given three times a year) generally take two to six minutes to administer, depending on the student's grade level. Progress monitoring takes one to two minutes per student.

6. How will the results be used?

A student's scores on the DIBELS measures give the teacher and school information about whether or not they are on track for grade-level reading success. The scores show areas where students are doing well and areas where they may need additional support. This helps teachers plan instruction—they can use, for example, progress monitoring scores to make sure your student receives extra help to improve their reading skills as needed throughout the school year.

What are the skills your child should learn to become a successful reader?

Skill name (and assessment name)	What is my child asked to do during this assessment?	How can my child show this skill?	Grade levels when these skills are assessed
Letter Names <i>Letter Naming Fluency (LNF)</i>	Name uppercase and lowercase letters.	Can they name both uppercase and lowercase letters?	K-1
Phonemic Awareness <i>Phonemic Segmentation Fluency (PSF)</i>	Segment words into their phonemes, e.g., say all the sounds in the word "cat" (/c//a//t/).	Can they identify the first, middle, and last sound in the word "sun" (sss...uh...nn)?	K-1
Phonics/Decoding <i>Nonsense Word Fluency – Correct Letter Sounds (NWF-CLS)</i> <i>Nonsense Word Fluency – Words Recoded Correctly (NWF-WRC)</i>	Know the sounds of letters and sound out written words. Read or sound out the letters of make-believe words, e.g., say all the sounds of and read the word "hap".	Can they sound out simple words like "van"? (vvv...aah...nnn) Can they easily read a list of two- and three-letter words? Can they easily read more complicated words over time?	K-3
Word Reading <i>Word Reading Fluency (WRF)</i>	Read common words easily, quickly, and correctly.	Can they recognize familiar words without sounding them out? Can they recognize common words such as "there," "one," "color"?	K-3
Accurate and Fluent Reading <i>Oral Reading Fluency (ORF)</i> <i>Oral Reading Fluency-Accuracy (ORF-Accu)</i>	Read stories easily and correctly.	Can they read aloud smoothly and accurately? Can they read words and sentences in short stories easily?	1-6
Reading Comprehension <i>(Maze)</i>	Understand and gain meaning from texts.	Can they fill in the blank in this sentence: "Before you eat, be sure to ____ your hands!" Can they tell you about the story they just read?	2-6