



Assessment Terms Used in Reading

There are multiple terms used to describe reading assessments. This infographic is intended to clarify these terms.

Screening Assessment

"Brief assessments, typically administered to all students, designed to identify those at risk of failing an outcome. Performance on a screening assessment can be used to identify students who need further evaluation of skills as well as students who are expected to perform adequately or in an accelerated fashion on an outcome assessment."¹

A screening assessment can also be used as an interim assessment.

Diagnostic Assessment

An assessment that is typically given to those identified as at-risk on a screening assessment to provide specific information to practitioners about a student's strengths and weaknesses.¹

Progress Monitoring

There are two approaches to monitoring students' progress throughout the school year.

Interim Assessment

An assessment that is used to evaluate student knowledge and skills relative to a specific set of academic goals. These assessments are typically administered within a limited time frame. Results can be used at the classroom level as well as aggregated and reported at the school or district level.²

Formative Assessment

An on-going assessment process that is used by teachers and students to gauge student learning of the current unit of instruction. Formative assessments help teachers provide corrective feedback, modify instruction to improve the students' understanding, or indicate areas needing further instruction.²

Summative Assessment

An assessment generally administered one time, usually at the end of a school year, to evaluate students' performance relative to a set of content standards.²



1. Foorman, B.R., Kershaw, S., & Petscher, Y. (2013). *Evaluating the screening accuracy of the Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading (FAIR)*. (REL 2013-008). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences.

2. Perie, M., Marion, S., Gong, B., & Wertz, J. (2007). *The role of interim assessments in a comprehensive assessment system*. The Aspen Institute.

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