

December 2024

Dear elementary families,

This letter shares information regarding how we will learn about your child's reading skills. In Wisconsin, each child in grades 4K-3 will take an assessment called the *aimswwebPlus* early reading screener. A screener is an assessment that quickly checks your child's early reading skills.

What skills will be tested?

The screener will check important literacy skills including alphabet knowledge, letter sound knowledge, phonemic awareness, decoding, and oral vocabulary. The skills are tested differently based on your child's grade level. Please see page 2 for information about these skills.

When will the reading screener take place?

The screening schedule for the 2024-2025 school year is:

- 5K - 3rd Grade Winter Assessment Window: January 22 - 31, 2025
- 4K - 3rd Grade Spring Assessment Window: April 1 - 10, 2025.

In the future, the *aimswwebPlus* early reading screener will take place in fall, winter, and spring. 4K students will take the assessment in Fall and Spring only.

What information will parents/caregivers receive?

You will receive your child's test results within 15 days after the close of the test window. The report will share your student's performance compared to national score averages. This comparison is called a percentile rank.

How will the information be used?

The information from the early reading screener is one way that your child's teacher will learn about your child's reading skills. If your child's score is below the 25th percentile, the teacher will give additional literacy assessments and will share a personalized reading plan that will outline supports your child will receive to meet grade-level goals.

How can I prepare my child for the early reading screener?

No special preparation for *aimswwebPlus* reading screener is needed. The testing is quick and should not become a big event for your child. State law requires that all students participate in the screener.

If you have any questions or need more information about the early reading screener, please contact your child's teacher or principal.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership in your child's education!

Early Reading Skills

2023 Wisconsin Act 20 requires that children are assessed in the early reading skills of alphabet knowledge, letter sound knowledge, phonemic awareness, and decoding. These skills are assessed differently depending on the student's grade level. The skills being assessed are foundational to reading development and are You can learn more about these important early reading skills below:

- **Alphabet knowledge:** Knowing the names of printed letters.
- **Letter sound knowledge:** Knowing the sounds of printed letters.
- **Phonemic awareness:** Hearing , saying, and manipulating individual sounds in spoken words.
- **Decoding skills:** Connecting sounds to written letters to read printed words.
- **Oral vocabulary:** Understanding the meanings of words when speaking or listening.

aimswebPlus Early Reading Screening Assessments

The *aimswebPlus* reading screeners that measure the skills above are based on a student's grade level. Learn more about these assessments below:

- **Letter Naming Fluency (5K and Bilingual Program 1st grade*):** Your child will have one minute to say the names of upper-and lowercase letters. Measures a student's knowledge of upper-and lower-case letters. *Fall only for bilingual program grade 1 classes.
- **Letter & Word Sounds Fluency (*4K, K , *1st grade) or Syllable Reading Fluency (Bilingual Program 5K):** Your child will have one minute to say the sounds of letters, syllables, and words. Measures a student's letter sound knowledge. *Spring only for 4K students; fall only for first grade students.
- **Initial sounds (4K, 5K):** Your child will be provided a page with four pictures. They will be asked to either point to a picture of a word that matches the beginning sound the teacher says or make the beginning sound of a word spoken by the teacher. Measures a student's phonemic awareness; this assessment will take 2-3 minutes.
- **Phoneme Segmentation (1st grade) or Syllable Segmentation (Bilingual Program: K, 1st grade):** Your child will listen to a word that is spoken by the teacher and then say each sound they hear in the word. Measures a student's phonemic awareness; this assessment will take 2-3 minutes.
- **Auditory Vocabulary (5K, 1st grades):** Your child will match a picture to the word said by the teacher. Measures a student's knowledge of words commonly found in Kindergarten and First Grade reading materials; this assessment will take 2-4 minutes.
- **Vocabulary (2nd, 3rd grades):** Your child will choose the meaning of target words by selecting from multiple choice options. Measures a student's knowledge of the meanings of grade-appropriate words. This is an untimed, computerized assessment that typically takes 7-10 minutes.
- **Oral Reading Fluency (1st, 2nd, 3rd grades):** Your child will read two stories aloud as far as they can go in one minute (for each story). Measures a student's decoding skills.
- **Listening Comprehension (Bilingual Program Only: 5K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd grades):** Your child will listen to the teacher read prompts/short stories and will respond to the prompts in a packet. This is an untimed test that is administered to the whole class and typically takes 10-15 minutes.