



Glendale-River Hills School District

A community that pursues equity, where each person belongs and thrives.

Dear Parkway Caregivers,

Starting this year, each child in grades 4K-3 across Wisconsin will take an assessment called the *aimswebPlus* Early Reading Screener. This screener is an assessment that quickly checks your child's 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 based on your child's grade level.

- **Phonological awareness** - an oral skill that involves the ability to recognize and manipulate the spoken parts of sentences and words (grades 4K, 5K and 1)
- **Letter and Sound Identification** - Recognition of the letters of the alphabet and their connected sounds (grades 4K, 5K and 1)
- **Oral vocabulary** - knowledge of word meanings (grades 5K 1, 2 and 3)
- **Decoding** - an understanding of how letters and sounds are combined to read words fluently with accuracy, speed and expression (grades 5K 1, 2 and 3)

When will the reading screener take place?

The *aimswebPlus* early reading screener will take place 2-3 times per year depending on grade level starting the 25-26 school year. Grades K5-3 will have a fall, winter and spring screener. Grade K4 will have fall and spring assessments. This school year K5-3rd grade students will be assessed in winter and spring. K4 students will only be assessed in spring. The spring assessment window will be April 7th-April 18th.

What information will parents/caregivers receive and how will the information be used?

You will receive your child's test results after they take the reading screener. 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, your child will have additional diagnostic testing. This additional testing will focus more closely on your child's strengths and needs and help us to determine the next best steps.

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

No special preparation for *aimswebPlus* reading screener is needed. Just send your child to school as usual. The testing is quick and should not be a big event for your child.

At Parkway, we are committed to helping all students become strong readers. Knowing how your child performs in each of these areas will help our teachers provide specific kinds of instruction to ensure progress. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jennica Stick, Director of Teaching and Learning, at jennica.stick@gdrh.org, or Parkway Literacy Interventionist Coaches. (Jennifer Wampole at Jennifer.wampole@gdrh.org, Nicole Birkel at nicole.birkel@gdrh.org, or Tess Kautzer at tess.kautzer@gdrh.org)

Sincerely,

Jennica Stick
Director of Teaching and Learning