Encinitas
UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Families,

Beginning this school year, all schools in California are required to screen students in grades K-2 for reading difficulties. Although EUSD has historically assessed students' pre-reading and reading skills, we are now required to use one of the recently approved state assessment tools in grades K-2.

We are pleased to announce, students in our district will be assessed using Amira, which was adopted at the EUSD Board of Education meeting on May 20, 2025, following a unanimous recommendation from teachers and staff who were part of the Adoption Committee.

Amira is the culmination of a 30-year research and development project launched at Carnegie Mellon University that partnered literacy experts with scientists to create the Amira Reading Suite. More than 100 peer-reviewed studies were conducted during development. You can learn more about the research behind Amira here.

EUSD students in kindergarten through second grade, will take the assessment 3-4 times per year to ensure adequate reading progress is being made. Results from the assessments will be shared during conferences and reporting periods, along with details about any next steps or follow-up, if needed.

The purpose of this screening process is to identify K-2 students early on who may need extra reading support. This allows us to provide targeted instruction when students need it most. Research shows that catching challenges early on, and providing the right support at the right time, makes a huge difference in a child's reading success.

Screening for reading difficulties risk is part of a comprehensive prevention model to support students' learning. The administration during the second assessment block in December/January will meet the state annual requirement. However, if you do not want your child to take part in this universal screening, please submit a written request to your school principal.

If you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Lisa Forehand, EUSD Director of Leadership and Learning, at Lisa.Forehand@eusd.net.

Thank you for partnering with us to help every child become a confident, joyful reader. We look forward to a wonderful school year ahead.

Lisa Forehand
Director of Leadership and Learning
Encinitas Union School District