

DIBELS & Dyslexia

September 2025 C&I Micro PD



What is DIBELS?

- Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills, a system of assessments that allow teachers and schools to determine how students are performing on important reading skills.
- What skills are measured by DIBELS?
 - **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.

What is assessed?

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

What information will be shared with parents and teachers?

- Parents will receive a letter this fall explaining the screening process. Then, after screening, they will receive a family report detailing their child's literacy screening results, including how they compare to grade-level norms.
- Based on the results, teachers will be provided with grouping and interventions through mClass.
- We have also received the FOCUS (Funding for Optimal Comprehensive Universal Screeners) grant through the NJDoE which will allow for additional PD and collaboration sessions for staff to design and implement interventions based on the DIBEL data.





What is Dyslexia ?

- Dyslexia is a neurological learning disorder that primarily affects reading, writing, and spelling.
- It is not related to intelligence and can affect individuals of all backgrounds and ages.
- DSM- 5 and NJ special education code defines dyslexia as a specific learning disability.
- There is no single approach to supporting students with dyslexia.

*The NJDOE offers a plethora of tools and information for parents and educators of students with Dyslexia .

How are students with Dyslexia supported?

Curriculum accommodations and/or modifications

- Larger print
- Text to speech software
- Repetition of instructions
- Highlighted text
- Spell check

Curriculum interventions/resources

- CKLA
 - SPIRE (teacher led, multi-sensory intervention based on the Science of Reading)
 - MCLASS
- Eureka

Questions?

