

# Understanding DIBELS 8- Parent FAQ



## What is DIBELS 8?

Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS 8) is a short, research-based assessment that measures how children are developing essential reading skills. It is used nationwide in schools to monitor literacy progress in grades K–8.

## Why do we use it?

- Helps teachers understand your child's strengths in reading.
- Identifies areas where extra support may be needed.
- Ensures all students are on track to become strong, confident readers.
- Meets New Jersey's requirement for early literacy screening in K–3.

## How is it given?

- One-on-one with a teacher or trained staff member.
- Takes about 5 minutes per student.
- Conducted three times per year (beginning, middle, and end).

## What does DIBELS 8 measure?

DIBELS looks at the skills that research shows are most important for learning to read:

- Phonemic Awareness – hearing and working with sounds in words.
- Alphabet Knowledge – recognizing letters and their sounds.
- Decoding – sounding out and reading unfamiliar words.
- Fluency – reading with accuracy, speed, and expression.
- Comprehension – understanding what is read.

## What happens after the assessment?

- Families receive a Family Report with results.
- The report explains how your child is performing compared to grade-level expectations.
- If your child could benefit from extra help, we'll connect you with support programs and resources available in our district.

## Key Point for Families

DIBELS 8 is not a test or diagnosis. It is a quick check-up for reading like a thermometer for literacy, that helps us make sure every child is on the path to success.