



Dear Families,

Universal screening is an assessment used to identify students who might be at risk for difficulties in learning. They are quick, reliable, and valid assessments conducted with all students from a grade level. The State of Massachusetts requires that all students in grades K-3 participate in early literacy/dyslexia screening. In addition to these required screenings, Norwell Schools conducts universal screening in literacy and mathematics three times per year (fall, winter, and spring) for all students in grades K-5.

Multi-tiered System of Support (MTSS) is defined by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA, 2015), as “a comprehensive continuum of evidence-based, systemic practices to support a rapid response to students’ needs, with regular observation to facilitate data-based instructional decision making.” In Norwell, we call it the Norwell-Tiered System of Support (NTSS). These supports are typically conceptualized across three levels of increasing intensity.

NTSS (Norwell Tiered System of Support)

Risk Level	Tier	Supports
Low Risk	1	Supports are available to all students through a general education program. Inclusive practice, which is linguistically responsive and culturally sustaining, is a cornerstone of Tier 1.
Some Risk	1 and 2	Supports occur in addition to the supports that are provided in Tier 1 settings. These supports are generally done in small groups and include additional opportunities to practice the skills necessary for core instruction or strategies for enrichment.
High Risk	1, 2, and 3	Supports are the most intensive in Tier 3. These supports are often explicit, focused interventions that occur individually or in very small groups. It is important to note that Tier 3 is not synonymous with special education. Students with disabilities may not need Tier 3 support and students not identified with a disability may, in fact, need Tier 3 support.

Your child’s universal screening results will be available three times per year; fall, winter, and spring, in the Aspen portal. These results are used along with other classroom data to determine if students will receive extra support in the targeted areas. Students who score in the some-risk category will generally receive additional small group (Tier 2) support from their classroom teacher. Should your child need a higher level of support (Tier 3) with a reading or math specialist, you will hear directly from your child’s classroom teacher within 30 days of the screening about support and the monitoring of your child’s progress.

These results represent one quick measure of your child’s skills. If you have any questions or concerns about your child’s progress in the curriculum your child’s teacher can provide more detail on their skill development.

Links to a more detailed, narrated slide presentation of the Norwell Tiered System of Support and directions for accessing your child’s universal screener information in Aspen are included below along with a list of the K-5 universal screening measures.

Your partnership in supporting the education of your child and all of our Norwell Public School children is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Meredith Erickson
Director of Teaching, Learning, and Technology

[Norwell Tiered System of Support and Universal Screening presentation](#) (slides only)

[Elementary Universal Screening presentation transcript](#)

[Directions for accessing universal screening information in Aspen](#)

Norwell Schools - Universal Screening Measures K-5

Grade	Screening	Format
Kindergarten	Fastbridge early reading	1:1 sight words, segmenting, nonsense words, letter sounds
	Acadience RAN	1:1 rapid automatic naming (Fall/Spring only)
	Fastbridge early math	1:1 early math skills
First Grade	Fastbridge early reading	1:1 sight words, segmenting, nonsense words, oral reading
	Acadience RAN	1:1 rapid automatic naming (Fall only)
	Fastbridge early math	1:1 early math skills

Second Grade	Fastbridge CBM	1:1 timed oral reading
	DIBELS NWF	1:1 timed nonsense word reading
	Fastbridge aMath	Independent, computer based, adaptive
Third Grade	Fastbridge aReading	Independent, computer based, adaptive
	Fastbridge aMath	Independent, computer based, adaptive
Fourth Grade	Fastbridge aReading	Independent, computer based, adaptive
	Fastbridge aMath	Independent, computer based, adaptive
Fifth Grade	Fastbridge aReading	Independent, computer based, adaptive
	Fastbridge aMath	Independent, computer based, adaptive