Understanding Amira Reading Usage in APS
Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) uses Amira as our state-mandated reading assessment, for students in grades K–3 (and K–5 in Structured Literacy schools). New Mexico law requires universal early literacy testing three times per year for K–2 students; APS extends Amira to grade 3 to ensure equitable access to foundational reading support, as well as dyslexia screening in first grade.

What is Amira?
Amira has two parts: **Amira Assess** is an interim assessment that measures reading skills three times a year, and screens for dyslexia, and **Amira Tutor** is a digital reading buddy that provides real-time support as students read aloud. Amira Tutor is a classroom supplement — not a replacement for teacher instruction — offering about 30 minutes of targeted practice per week, as well as a monthly check-in so teachers can adjust their support as needed.

Amira works like a listening helper. It uses voice recognition to listen to students read aloud, identify tricky words or sounds, and immediately provide helpful reading hints and tips tailored just for that student. Unlike older tools that rely on silent multiple-choice quizzes, this approach applies the Science of Reading by listening to students read aloud and delivering immediate, spoken coaching across all five pillars of reading as struggles arise.

What does the assessment look like (Amira Assess)?
Students log in with their district credentials and are guided by an animated avatar. Younger students work on letter names, sounds, and word matching; older students read short passages aloud. The system adapts in real time to each student's reading level.

How is student data protected?
Amira complies with FERPA and COPPA. The district retains ownership of all student records, and Amira prohibits commercial use of student data. Voice recordings are stored separately in de-identified form and are never used to create biometric profiles. The platform undergoes annual independent security audits. Families may request to review their child's scores and recordings through the district.

Questions? Contact your school’s Principal, or visit amiralearning.com.