



Michael A. Nolan, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Christopher Eberly
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Waterford Township School District
1106 Old White Horse Pike
Waterford Works, NJ 08089
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Dear WTSD Families,

We hope this message finds you and your family well. We are writing to inform you about an important state requirement that supports early literacy development for our students.

Beginning in the 2025–2026 school year, a new **New Jersey law (N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-6.6)** requires all public schools to administer **universal literacy screening** to all students in **Kindergarten through Grade 3**. This initiative is designed to help schools **identify children who may be at risk for reading difficulties**, including characteristics of **dyslexia**, so that timely, targeted support can be provided.

What is a Universal Literacy Screener?

A universal screener is a brief, research-based assessment that helps educators determine whether students are on track with critical reading skills such as:

- Letter Naming Fluency
- Phoneme Segmentation
- Nonsense Word Reading
- Word Reading Fluency
- Oral Reading Fluency
- Reading comprehension

These screeners are **not high-stakes tests** and are not used for grading or placement. Rather, they are a tool to help us understand how to best support each child's reading development.

How and When Will Screening Happen?

Students in K–3 will participate in literacy screenings **three times per year**—in the **fall, winter, and spring**—as part of our regular instructional program.



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If a student is identified as needing additional support, we will communicate with you directly and collaborate on the next steps to ensure your child receives appropriate interventions and instruction.

Our Commitment to Literacy

Our goal is to ensure that every student becomes a confident, capable reader. Early identification and intervention are key to achieving this goal. This literacy screening process is one of many steps we are taking to strengthen early reading outcomes for all learners.

If you have any questions about the literacy screening process or how we support reading instruction in the classroom, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Thank you for your continued partnership in your child's education.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Nolan
Superintendent