Pennsylvania
Department of Education

Universal Screeners for Evidence-Based Reading Instruction

This document presents universal screeners for evidence-based reading instruction for kindergarten through grade 3 as outlined in Article XV-N of the School Code.

Reading Universal Screeners

The Pennsylvania Department of Education's (PDE) current list of universal screeners represents **Phase One of its review**, focusing on tools that local education agencies (LEAs) reported using in the March 2026 Statewide Literacy Survey. PDE reviewed these screeners against legislative requirements and a rubric addressing essential reading components, technical quality, identification of reading risk, instructional usefulness and progress monitoring, and usability and implementation supports.

Intended Use for School Entities

The Universal Screeners for Evidence-Based Reading Instruction list supports school entities in meeting the requirements of Article XV-N of the Pennsylvania School Code, as amended by Act 47 of 2025. Beginning in the 2027–2028 school year, school entities must use a screener from this list to screen K–3 students at the beginning, middle, and end of each school year. Inclusion on the list constitutes approval by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). The list reflects Phase One of PDE's review, with subsequent phases planned to evaluate additional tools for inclusion based on Pennsylvania's requirements.

Reading Universal Screeners List

The following universal screeners have been found to have met the requirements of Article XV-N of the School Code:

Approved K-3 Reading Universal Screeners
Acadience Reading
aimswebPlus Universal Screener
Amplify MClass with Dibels 8th edition
Dibels 8th edition
*FastBridge suite: CBM, Early Literacy Universal Screener and aReading Adaptive Reading
MAP Reading Fluency Universal Screener
*Star suite: Early Literacy, Star CBM Reading, Star Phonics, Star Reading Universal Screener

* These screeners must be used together as a suite to meet Pennsylvania's universal screening requirements. Additional guidance from PDE on the use of the approved assessment suite is forthcoming. This guidance will specify which assessments to administer at each grade level and during each screening window.

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