



are. . . **Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills**, measures designed to quickly and efficiently assess reading and pre-reading skills in Kindergarten through third grade.

What is DIBELS?

The DIBELS measures are indicators of the skill areas they are designed to assess. Just as a pediatrician measures a child's height and weight as a quick and efficient indicator of that child's physical development, each DIBELS measure is a quick and efficient indicator of how well a child is doing in a particular early reading skill.

Who gives the DIBELS assessment?

Teachers and/or other personnel trained to administer the assessment give the screenings individually to all students within a short time frame. These screenings occur three times per year. Also throughout the school year, progress-monitoring assessments are given to students who are shown to be "at risk" by the classroom teacher.

Why is DIBELS used at my school?

The Reading Excellence Act, 1999; Public Law 107-110, 2001 promotes early identification and intervention with students in the "basic" and "below basic" levels of reading achievement.

In the 2010-2011 school year, all districts are required by the state to administer DIBELS in all K-3 schools. DIBELS Next is the official assessment for the K-3 grades in Louisiana and replaces the DRA- Developmental Reading Assessment.

How can my school use DIBELS?

Schools can use DIBELS to . . .

- **Identify students who are at risk for reading difficulties** – by testing students three times a year – we can identify children who are "on track" for learning to read and also identify children who may need additional instructional support to meet reading goals
- **Monitor progress of at-risk students while they receive additional, targeted instruction** – to ensure that they are making adequate progress. If a student is not making progress, the support can be adjusted to meet the student's needs.
- **Examine the effectiveness of the school's instructional supports** – examine the overall outcomes at the class or school level to determine if there are areas where the school's instructional supports can be improved.

What does DIBELS test?

- First Sound Fluency (K)
- Letter Naming Fluency(K-1)
- Phoneme Segmentation Fluency (K-1)
- Nonsense Word Fluency (K-2)
- Oral Reading Fluency (1-3)
- Oral Retelling Fluency (1-3)
- Daze-Reading comprehension (3)

Five Essential Skill Areas of Early Literacy

- Phonemic Awareness: Hearing and using sounds in spoken words
- Phonics: Knowing the sounds of the letters and sounding out written words
- Accurate and Fluent Reading: Reading stories and other materials easily and quickly with few mistakes
- Vocabulary: Understanding and correctly using a variety of words
- Reading Comprehension: Understanding what is spoken or read

How will I know what my child's reading score on DIBELS is?

Parents will be notified three times a year, Fall, Winter, and Spring on their child's performance on the DIBELS Next assessment.

REMEMBER:

Scores on the DIBELS Next provide an indication of performance only.

Depending on your child's performance on the assessment and in the classroom, your child may be eligible to receive extra interventions.

Intensive Intervention Level – your child qualifies for 45 additional minutes a day in reading

Strategic Intervention Level - your child qualifies for 20 - 30 additional minutes a day in reading two or three times a week, usually in the regular classroom setting

Benchmark Level- your child should continue to progress in the normal scheduled reading time allotted by the state

What are DIBELS?

Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills

Phonics

Comprehension

Accurate Reading

Phonemic Awareness

Fluency