

## Early Reading Screener Information

Dear Families,

In Wisconsin, each child in grades 4K-3 will take an assessment called the *aimswebPlus* Early Reading Screener. A screener is an assessment that quickly checks your child's reading skills. Pardeeville has always used a reading screener to assess students' reading abilities, however, this will be the first time using *aimswebPlus* as our universal screener. Previously, we used STAR Early Literacy and STAR Reading as one tool to identify students who may be at risk of reading difficulties. This letter shares information about this new test and how it will be used within our school.

### What skills will be tested?

The screener will check important literacy skills including alphabet knowledge (knowing the names of printed letters), letter sound knowledge (knowing the sounds of printed letters), phonemic awareness (hearing, saying, and manipulating individual sounds in spoken words), decoding (connecting sounds to written letters to read printed words), and oral vocabulary (understanding the meanings of words when speaking or listening). The skills are tested differently based on your child's grade level.

Here are the assessments & grade levels when they are assessed:

Assessment	4K		5K			Grade 1			Grades 2 & 3		
	Fall	Spring	Fall	Winter	Spring	Fall	Winter	Spring	Fall	Winter	Spring
Letter Naming Fluency			✓	✓	✓						
Letter Word Sounds Fluency		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Initial Sounds	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Phoneme segmentation						✓					
Auditory Vocabulary			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Vocabulary									✓	✓	✓
Oral Reading Fluency						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Here is a short description of each assessment:

- **Letter naming fluency:** Measures a student's knowledge of upper and lowercase letters. Your child will have one minute to say the names of visually presented upper and lowercase letters that they know.
- **Letter word sounds fluency:** Measures a student's letter sound knowledge. Your child will have one minute to say the sounds of visually presented letters, syllables, and words that they know.
- **Initial sounds:** Measures a student's phonemic awareness. Your child will be provided a page with four pictures. Your child will be asked to either point to a picture of a word that matches the beginning sound the teacher says or make the beginning sound of a word spoken by the teacher. This assessment will take 2-3 minutes.
- **Phoneme segmentation:** Measures a student's phonemic awareness. Your child will listen to a word that is spoken by the teacher and then say each sound they hear in the word. This assessment will take 2-3 minutes.
- **Auditory vocabulary:** Measures a student's knowledge of words commonly found in kindergarten and first grade reading materials. Your child will match a picture to an orally presented word. This assessment will take 2-4 minutes.

- **Vocabulary:** Measures a student's knowledge of the meanings of grade-appropriate words. Your child will choose the meaning of target words by selecting from multiple choice options. This is an untimed, computerized assessment that typically takes 4-7 minutes.
- **Oral reading fluency:** Measures a student's decoding skills. Your child will read two grade level stories aloud, each for one minute. The teacher will mark the child's reading errors and the total words read correctly will be recorded.

### **Who will administer the assessments?**

Most assessments will be administered individually to students by the classroom teacher, reading teacher, reading specialist or special education teacher.

### **When will the reading screener take place?**

The *aimswebPlus* Early Reading Screener will take place 1-3 times per year. The screening schedule for the 2024-2025 school year is shown below:

**Winter:** January 6- January 17 (K-3rd grades only)

**Spring:** April 7 - April 17 (4K-3rd grades only)

### **What information will parents/caregivers receive?**

You will receive your child's test results within 15 days after they take the reading screener. The school will give you a report sharing your child's score and how others score at the same grade level. This comparison is called a percentile rank. For any student who scores below the 25th percentile on the early literacy screener, the school will also provide a family survey that invites you to share about your family's history and/or experiences with reading and writing.

### **How will the information be used?**

The information from the early reading screener is one way that teachers will learn about your child's reading skills. The reading screener does not diagnose dyslexia or other disabilities. If your child's score is below the 25th percentile, a teacher will complete additional diagnostic tests. They will use this information to create a personalized reading plan to help your child meet grade-level goals.

### **How can I prepare my child for the early reading screener?**

No special preparation for *aimswebPlus* reading screener is needed. Just send your child to school as usual. The testing is quick and should not be a big event for your child.

If you have any questions or need more information about the early reading screener, please contact me.

Thank you,

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