

# Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS)

## ***Who takes the DIBELS?***

Students in grades K-6 are assessed using the DIBELS Assessment as the universal screener for the Response to Instruction and Intervention (RtII) process.

## ***What does the DIBELS measure?***

DIBELS tests five skills that are necessary for learning to read. These skills are:

- Phonemic Awareness: Hearing and using sounds in spoken words
- Alphabetic Principle: Knowing the sounds of the letters and sounding out written words
- Accurate and Fluent Reading: Reading stories and other materials easily, at an appropriate pace, with few mistakes and with appropriate expression and phrasing
- Vocabulary: Understanding and using a variety of words
- Comprehension: Understanding the meaning of what is spoken or read

## ***How long does the DIBELS take to administer?***

DIBELS is made up of short, one minute individual subtests, each focusing on a different skill. A student may take two to five of the DIBELS subtests depending on his or her grade level and the time of the year. Students in grades 4-6 also take a short group comprehension subtest.

## ***How many times a year is the DIBELS administered?***

The DIBELS is administered three times a year, in September, January and May. In grades 3 – 6, all students are assessed in September. Students who are far above the benchmark score are not assessed again during the year.

## ***How does the district use the results from the DIBELS?***

Schools use the DIBELS results to determine areas of strength and need overall and for monitoring individual students' development in reading. This analysis informs the attainment of mastery of state standards, planning of interventions and enrichment opportunities, and progress monitoring of growth in achievement. In addition, the results of the DIBELS are used to monitor curriculum alignment and instructional practices in order to inform curriculum development and professional development.

## ***How is the DIBELS score reported?***

The DIBELS composite scores and subtest scores report student achievement as compared to a benchmark score of where the student should be achieving to be on track for reading on grade level. Students achieving at Benchmark level meet or exceed the target for that point in the year; students achieving at Below Benchmark or Below Cut Point for Risk levels are considered for additional targeted instruction to improve performance on these skills.

## ***Where can I access my child's DIBELS data?***

DIBELS data can be provided by the student's teacher. Additionally, DIBELS data are available through the Home Access Center (HAC) system. All parents can request an account for HAC using a current email address.