

Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS™)

SCDE Contact:

- **Administration/Scoring/Reporting**—Dr. Meghan Walters, mgwalters@ed.sc.gov, 803-734-0400 (calls/voicemail), 803-470-2834 (text)

Contractor: Renaissance

- **PALS Support Team:** 805-576-7117, ext. 4 or support@palshelp.com
- **Contractor Web Page:** <https://palsresource.info/south-carolina-2/>

SCDE Web Page: <https://ed.sc.gov/tests/elementary/pre-kindergarten-readiness-assessments/#PALS>

Assessment Components: Required Tasks: Name Writing, Alphabet Knowledge (all upper and lower case letters), Beginning Sound Awareness; Rhyme Awareness, Nursery Rhyme Awareness, Print and Word Awareness

Test Administration:

The assessment is individually administered by a DTC approved or certified educator who has been trained in the use of the test materials.

- All items are scripted, and the teacher reads the directions written in the Teacher Administration Manual.
- PALS Online System is used by teachers to record student responses, retrieve reports, download electronic lesson plans and instructional activities, use the additional progress monitoring probes, and view administration tutorials.
- PALS Quick Checks are brief measures used to monitor student progress in between the three main screening/assessment windows (fall, mid-year, spring) in order to determine the effectiveness of instruction and intervention. PALS Quick Checks are optional and can be administered remotely.

Students Tested:

- All public-school students enrolled in K4 classrooms or First Steps K4 students

When Tests Are Administered:

- During the first 45 days of school and the last 45 days of school
- Fall and spring administrations are required; a mid-year administration is optional.

How Results Are Reported:

- Reports are downloaded from the PALS Online System and are available at the student, class, school, and district level.
- Raw scores are used in the diagnostic reports and progress monitoring reports. Student raw scores are categorized into developmental ranges of more support, ongoing instruction, and more challenge. The ranges are used to help inform and focus instruction. These results can be used to learn what students currently know and what they are ready to learn next.