



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Quincie L. Moore, Ph.D.
Director, Office of Early Learning and Literacy

DATE: March 3, 2020

RE: MTSS Universal Screening Approved List for the 2020–21 School Year

Pursuant to Act 213, districts and charter schools currently must screen all kindergarten and first grade students three times a year for potential reading difficulties.

The Office of Early Learning and Literacy (OELL) at the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) hosted a showcase of the 2019–20 approved Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Universal Screener providers on January 27, 2020, in Columbia, SC. The purpose of the showcase was to give district representatives the opportunity to participate in a presentation and review materials from each provider.

Following the showcase, the Learning Disorders Task Force (LDTF) met on January 28, 2020. After reviewing district feedback, the LDTF elected to hold a special meeting on February 25, 2020, to offer both vendors with currently approved screening tools and other vendors that serve SC districts the opportunity to present their universal screening products for addition to the LDTF's approved list for the 2020–21 school year.

The purpose of the meeting was to select universal screening tools for the 2020–21 school year. All vendors were asked to demonstrate that their universal screening tools met the criteria set by the LDTF. The criteria include:

1. Screener must be brief;
2. Screener must contain normative data for cut points;
3. Screener must screen for dyslexia and have the ability to progress monitor the abilities/skills mentioned below; and
4. Screener must measure all of the following abilities/skills:

Grade	Abilities/Skills
Kindergarten	1. Alphabetic Principle (Letter-Sound Relationships); 2. Alphabet Knowledge (Letter-Naming); and 3. Phonological Awareness.
First Grade	1. Alphabetic Principle (Letter-Sound Relationships); 2. Alphabet Knowledge (Letter-Naming); 3. Phonological Awareness; and 4. Fluency.
Second Grade (as needed)	1. Phonics; 2. Fluency; 3. Vocabulary; and 4. Comprehension.

After reviewing presentations and submitted materials, the LDTF voted to approve the following screeners for the 2020–21 school year:

- Acadience Reading (previously called DIBELS Next) from Acadience;
- aimswebPLUS from Pearson;
- Amira from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt,
- DIBELS 6th and 8th Editions from the University of Oregon Center for Teaching and Learning;
- easyCBM from Riverside Insights;
- FAST from FAST;
- MAP Reading Fluency from NWEA;
- mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition from Amplify;
- STAR CBM from Renaissance Learning; and
- STAR Early Literacy if used with STAR CBM fluency tasks.

The following two vendors below participated in the universal screener review meeting, but the LDTF requested additional information. The LDTF may approve the two screening tools below following a review of materials from both vendors on March 16, 2020, to determine if both tools meet the full criteria. The SCDE will send an updated approved list once a decision has been made.

- iReady Diagnostic from Curriculum Associates, LLC; and
- iSTEOP from iSTEOP Learning.

The Task Force elected to not allow universal screening waivers for the 2020–21 school year. Districts and charter schools must select from one of the tools above to offer to all kindergarten and first grade students, and second grade students as needed.

For further questions, please contact Quincie Moore at qmoore@ed.sc.gov or 803-737-3150.