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Assessing Reading

Multiple Measures

REVISED SECOND EDITION

**Edited by Linda Diamond
and B.J. Thorsnes**

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Consortium on Reaching Excellence in Education, Inc. (CORE)
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Editorial: Linda Gutlohn, Shelle Epton
Contributors: Orna Lenchner, Jacalyn Mahler,
Michael Milone
Book Design: Lucy Nielsen

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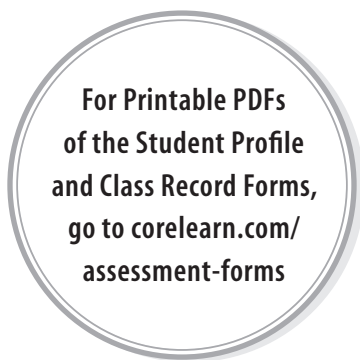
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Introduction to Assessing Reading

Phonological Awareness

- CORE Phonological Segmentation Test
 - CORE Phoneme Deletion Test
 - CORE Phoneme Segmentation Test
-

Decoding and Word Recognition

- CORE Phonics Survey (English)
 - CORE Graded High-Frequency Word Survey
 - San Diego Quick Assessment of Reading Ability
-

Fluency

- MASI-R Oral Reading Fluency Measure
-

Vocabulary

- CORE Vocabulary Screening Test
-

Comprehension

- CORE Reading Maze Comprehension Test
-

Assessments in Spanish

- CORE Spanish Phonemic Awareness Test
 - CORE Spanish Phonics Survey
 - CORE Spanish Spelling Inventory
 - Critchlow Spanish Verbal Language Scales
-

READING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT SKILL TAUGHT IN school. For many students, however, it is neither easy nor straightforward. *Assessing Reading: Multiple Measures* contains a collection of formal and informal reading assessments for use with students in Kindergarten–Grade 12. These assessments assist the teacher in targeting areas of strength and weakness, in monitoring student reading development, and in planning appropriate instruction.

Unlike large-scale achievement tests, the majority of these assessments can be administered individually. Each assessment was selected because it measures an important research-based reading skill and because it is quick, reliable, and easy to use. Each assessment provides clear and accurate individual student information.

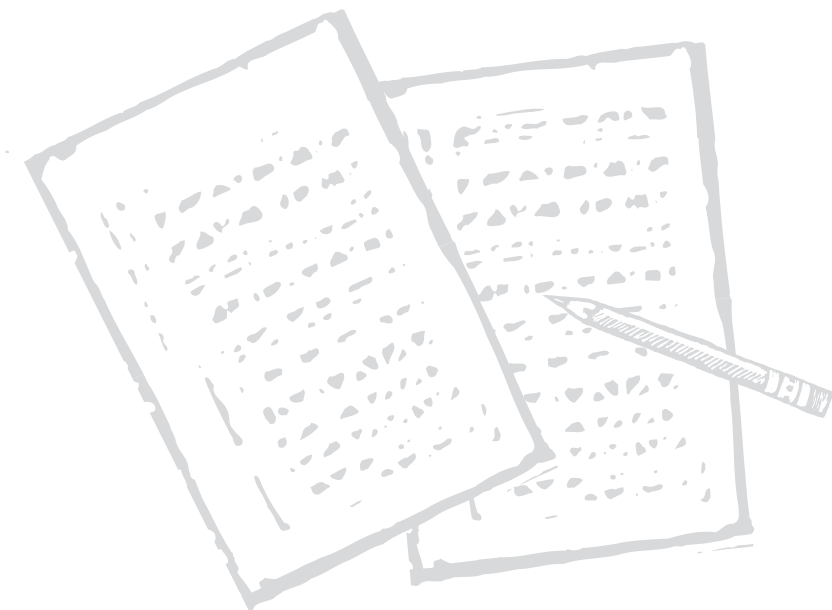
The assessments included in this book are designed to measure specific skills critical to successful reading. Some of the assessments are curriculum-based, while others are criteria-based, depending on the purpose of the assessment. Similarly, some assessments target specific skills, some are instruments for broader screening, and some can be used for both types of assessment. Spanish assessments are provided for the early grades where many students may still be in bilingual programs or may be receiving Spanish primary language instruction before transitioning to English programs. Student Profile Forms and Class Records found in the Appendix provide an easy way for teachers to summarize assessment results.

In an effective reading program, assessment informs instruction. This is true for large groups as well as for individuals. Different assessment instruments serve different purposes. The specific purpose determines the particular instrument selected and when in the instructional sequence it is used.

In the primary grades, reading instruction includes teaching discrete skills. These specific skills and strategies tend to be “enabling” skills, providing the foundation for long-term outcomes such as fluency and comprehension. Because of the need for mastery of these underlying skills, effective reading assessment in the primary grades is frequent and specific.

In Grades 4–12, assessment plays a role in monitoring progress as well as in identifying causes of reading difficulties, especially for struggling adolescent readers. Unlike primary grade assessment, which begins with the most discrete skills, reading assessment for older students often starts broadly and then becomes more discrete in order to pinpoint particular reading subskills that might cause reading difficulty. As a result, assessment becomes increasingly more specific in nature.

To meet students’ various assessment requirements, schools should organize their assessment toolkits around four broad types of assessment: screening, progress monitoring, diagnostic (specific skills) assessment, and outcome assessment. In all cases, teachers need to understand the expected targets of mastery for individual skills in order to identify students at risk of difficulty and to tailor instruction to meet identified needs.



Effective Reading Assessment Systems

	Screening	Progress Monitoring	Diagnostic Assessment	Outcome Assessment
Kindergarten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning and end of year Same tool can be used for progress monitoring Often curriculum-based like AIMSweb®, DIBELS®, or easyCBM® 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least three times a year More frequently to guide ongoing modification of the curriculum, particularly for students falling behind peers Curriculum-based measurement and curriculum-embedded measurement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If student fails to reach progress monitoring benchmarks Tools that identify specific skill gaps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At end of year or major instructional sequence State or district assessments Same tool can be used for screening
Grade 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning of year and up to three times yearly Same tool can be used for progress monitoring Often curriculum-based like AIMSweb®, DIBELS®, or easyCBM® 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least three times a year More frequently to guide ongoing modification of the curriculum, particularly for students falling behind peers Curriculum-based measurement and curriculum-embedded measurement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If student fails to reach progress monitoring benchmarks Tools that identify specific skill gaps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At end of year or major instructional sequence State or district assessments Same tool can be used for screening
Grades 2 and 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning of year and up to three times yearly Same tool can be used for progress monitoring Often curriculum-based like AIMSweb®, DIBELS®, or easyCBM® 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least three times a year More frequently to guide ongoing modification of the curriculum, particularly for students falling behind peers Curriculum-based measurement and curriculum embedded measurement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If student fails to reach progress monitoring benchmarks Tools that identify specific skill gaps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At end of year or major instructional sequence State or district assessments Same tool can be used for screening
Grades 4 through 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning of year and beginning of term Same tool can be used for progress monitoring For Grades 6 through 12, use previous school year's end-of-year assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least two to three times a year More frequently to guide ongoing modification of the curriculum, particularly for students falling behind peers Curriculum-based measurement and curriculum embedded measurement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If student fails to reach progress monitoring benchmarks Tools that identify specific skill gaps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At end of year or major instructional sequence State or district assessments Same tool can be used for screening

Types of Assessment

The Effective Reading Assessment Systems chart on the previous page describes the types and frequency of assessments that should occur.

SCREENING

Screening tests provide information about the knowledge and skill base of the student. They are useful for determining the most appropriate starting point for instruction and for planning instructional groups. Screening tests usually include formal and informal measures with clear mastery targets. In this book, there are screening tests for phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, and spelling. Testing systems such as AIMSweb[®], DIBELS[®], and easyCBM[®] provide assessments that are both screening tests and progress monitoring tools. For older students, tests such as the *Test of Silent Contextual Reading Fluency* (Pro-Ed) may function similarly.

PROGRESS MONITORING

Progress monitoring is ongoing. Examples of progress monitoring assessments are teacher observations, informal or formal tests, and curriculum tasks. Progress monitoring is used to determine whether students are making adequate progress, and also to determine whether instruction needs to be adjusted. Progress monitoring measures include curriculum-embedded assessments such as unit tests, which measure the extent to which students have learned the material taught in a specific reading program. They also include general or external measures for assessing critical reading skills such as phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary or comprehension, or for predicting success in meeting grade-level standards by the end of the year. Curriculum-based measurement (CBM) is an assessment tool that is often used for progress monitoring because it emphasizes repeated measurement over time. AIMSweb[®], DIBELS[®], and easyCBM[®] are some examples of ongoing progress monitoring systems. Ongoing progress monitoring may also include diagnostic tests that pinpoint the causes of a particular screening test result or a particular observed reading problem.

Progress monitoring serves to guide the specific focus of instruction. These tests are given at least three times a year to all students in the primary grades. It is recommended that students who are beginning to fall behind their peers be assessed at least monthly,

while students who have fallen considerably behind be assessed more frequently—every two weeks or even weekly. As with many progress monitoring instruments, further diagnostics may be necessary to inform accurate interpretation of results from these assessments.

DIAGNOSTIC

Diagnostic assessment can also be used for screening or progress monitoring. These tests identify students' strengths and weaknesses in specific skills. Diagnostic assessments should be given whenever a student is suspected of having difficulty learning what is being taught. Many of the tests in this book can serve as diagnostic assessments.

OUTCOME

Outcome assessment is often used at the end of major units of instruction and at year's end. It provides data about exiting accomplishments and is useful for planning the next major segment of instruction and for determining changes to a school's curriculum. It also provides programmatic information for large groups of students. Outcome assessment usually leads to outcome evaluation, which represents a final judgment about a school's curriculum or about an individual student.

Why Assess?

Reading is a complex process. Fluent reading is made up of two major domains: (1) the ability to decode or recognize individual written words, and (2) the ability to comprehend text as a whole unit. In order to identify student progress, to prevent reading difficulty from becoming entrenched, and to provide help to students with reading difficulties, teachers need to utilize assessments that isolate these two major components.

Many students fail to develop the decoding skill necessary for automatic word recognition because they are not aware that spoken words are composed of units of sound, or phonemes (Torgesen 2002). Because phonemic awareness is a strong correlate of reading skill, it is the basic (precursor) skill to be assessed in beginning readers (Ehri et al. 2001; Bishop 2003). Decoding skill can also be directly assessed through tests of real and pseudowords (Share and Stanovich 1995; Carver 2003). Assessing student knowledge of high-frequency words is also useful, because recognition of words

that appear often in printed text is crucial for comprehension (Zeno et al. 1995). According to Adams (1990), poorly developed word recognition skills are the most pervasive and debilitating source of reading difficulty.

Research consistently supports the relationship between reading fluency, which is the accurate reading of text at a conversational rate with appropriate prosody, and reading comprehension (Rasinski 2004; Hudson et al. 2005). Slow, laborious reading taxes the reader's capacity to construct an ongoing interpretation of the passage. For this reason, fluency tests, which measure both rate and accuracy, are critical assessment measures.

Tests of reading comprehension measure comprehension of passages and whole text—the ultimate goal of reading. Such tests measure higher-order skills through the use of multiple-choice questions, open-ended questions, or maze passage techniques. To demonstrate comprehension, the student must bring to bear word recognition proficiency, syntactic knowledge, background knowledge, comprehension monitoring, and reasoning skills. Finally, vocabulary warrants assessment because it is so closely correlated with comprehension. Studies of reading comprehension conducted in 15 different countries show that the correlation between vocabulary and reading comprehension ranges from .66 to .75 (Thorndike 1973; Joshi 1995; Biemiller 2005; Nagy 2005).

When to Assess

The Assessment Sequences on the following pages are guidelines for a suggested testing schedule. The Assessment Sequence for Students in Kindergarten–Grade 3 begins with assessments of the most discrete skills. In contrast, the Assessment Sequence for Students in Grades 4–12 begins with the most global skills. The Diagnostic Plans for Students in Grades 2–3 and Grades 4–12 provide a diagnostic sequence for identifying sources of reading difficulty as well as instructional recommendations. It should be noted that many of the measures on the charts can be replaced by teacher observation, informal checklists, and materials that come with a basal reading series. Also note that not all students will need all assessments.

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Assessment Sequence for Students in Kindergarten – Grade 3

	Kindergarten			Grade 1			Grade 2			Grade 3		
	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Choose 1 of the following: ▶ CORE Phonological Segmentation Test ▶ CORE Phoneme Deletion Test ▶ CORE Spanish Phonemic Awareness Test									Only if indicated			Only if indicated
▶ CORE Phoneme Segmentation Test									Only if indicated			Only if indicated
▶ CORE Phonics Survey (English) ▶ CORE Spanish Phonics Survey				Every 4–6 weeks until mastery; more frequently for at risk			Every 4–6 weeks until mastery; more frequently for at risk					Only if indicated
▶ CORE Spanish Spelling Inventory						3 times a year			3 times a year			3 times a year
▶ CORE Graded High-Frequency Word Survey				Every 4–6 weeks until mastery			Every 4–6 weeks until mastery					Every 4–6 weeks until mastery
▶ San Diego Quick Assessment of Reading Ability									If desired			If desired
▶ Critchlow Spanish Verbal Language Scales				Every 4–6 weeks until mastery			Every 4–6 weeks until mastery					Every 4–6 weeks until mastery
▶ CORE Vocabulary Screening Test						2 times a year			3 times a year			3 times a year
▶ MASI-R Oral Reading Fluency Measure						2 times a year; at least 2 times per month for at risk			3 times a year; at least 2 times per month for at risk			3 times a year; at least 2 times per month for at risk
▶ CORE Reading Maze Comprehension Test									3 times a year			3 times a year

See also...

Diagnostic Plan for Students in Grades 2–3, p. 14

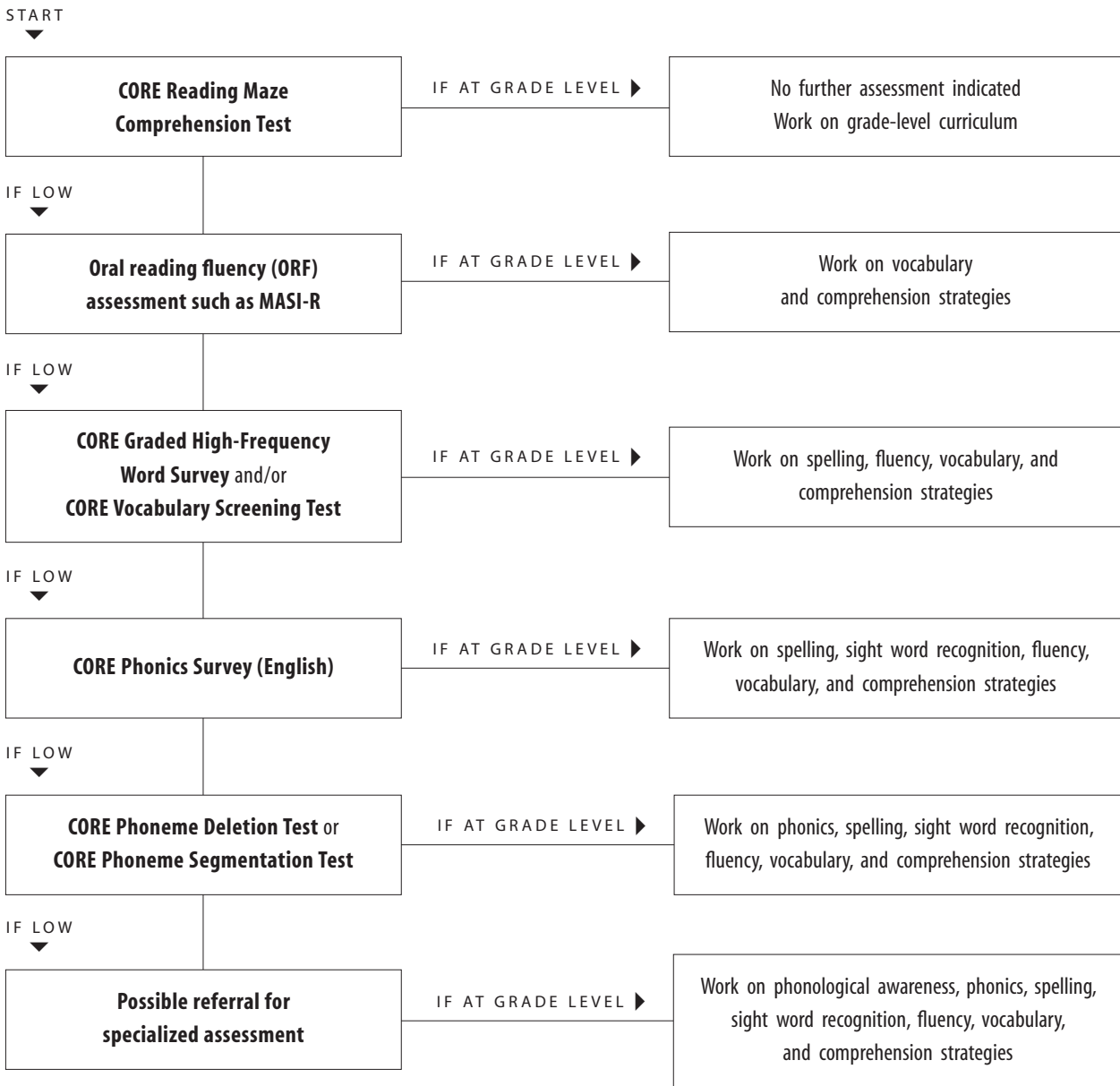
Assessment Sequence for Students in Grades 4–12

	Grades 4–6			Grades 7–8			Grade 9–12		
	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	FALL	WINTER	SPRING
▶ CORE Reading Maze Comprehension Test	3 times a year			As indicated or to screen			As indicated or to screen		
▶ MASI-R Oral Reading Fluency Measure	Only if indicated								
▶ CORE Vocabulary Screening Test	3 times a year			Only if indicated by low maze or other comprehension scores			Only if indicated by low maze or other comprehension scores		
▶ Critchlow Spanish Verbal Language Scales	Only if indicated			Only if indicated			Only if indicated		
▶ San Diego Quick Assessment of Reading Ability	Only if indicated			Only if indicated			Only if indicated		
▶ CORE Graded High-Frequency Word Survey	Only if indicated			Only if indicated			Only if indicated		
▶ CORE Spanish Spelling Inventory	Only if indicated			Only if indicated			Only if indicated		
▶ CORE Phonics Survey (English)	Only if indicated			Only if indicated			Only if indicated		
▶ CORE Phoneme Deletion Test	Only if indicated			Only if indicated			Only if indicated		
▶ CORE Phoneme Segmentation Test	Only if indicated			Only if indicated			Only if indicated		

See also...

Diagnostic Plan for Students in Grades 4–12, p. 15

Diagnostic Plan for Students in Grades 2–3



NOTE: For students in Kindergarten–Grade 1, follow the Assessment Sequence for Students in Kindergarten–Grade 3, p. 12.

Diagnostic Plan for Students in Grades 4–12

