

# **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 stands for *Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills*. 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 what is spoken or read

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

DIBELS is made up of seven short individual tests, called subtests. Each DIBELS subtest focuses on a different skill and takes about a minute. A student may be given two to five of the DIBELS subtests depending on his or her grade level and the time of the year. The DIBELS assessment, on the average, takes 8-10 minutes to administer to each student.

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

The DIBELS is administered three times a year, in September, January and May.

## **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 a raw score compared to a benchmark to determine which subskills may require additional instruction and whether the overall achievement is on grade level. A student's score on a subtest measures whether the student is likely to be "on track" for learning to read. Each grade level has its own developmentally appropriate set of skills tested and measures mastery of those skills against the expected performance for that point in the year. Students achieving at Benchmark level meet or exceed the target; 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. Beginning with the 2014-15 school year, DIBELS data will be available through the Home Access Center (HAC) system. All parents can request an account for HAC using a current email address.