

## Literacy First Frequently Asked Questions

Literacy First Battery of Screening Instruments approved to be used to meet the screening requirements of the Reading Sufficiency Act. The State Board of Education approved the battery of assessments July 7, 2005:

1. Phonological Awareness Skill Test (PAST)
2. Literacy First Phonics Assessment
3. Curriculum Based Measurement (CBM) Oral Reading Fluency Assessment

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1. What are the benchmarks identified by OCTP for each grade level (K-3) for the assessments included in the Literacy First Battery of Screening Instruments, that is, what determines if a child is on grade level or would need to be identified as at risk of reading difficulties?

### End of Year “On Grade Level” Criteria as Measured by Literacy First Assessments

#### **Kindergarten**

P.A.: All PK + 4 of 6 K skills

Phonics: 4 of 6 K skills

#### **First Grade**

P.A.: All PK, K + 3 of 4 First Grade skills

Phonics: All K + 7 of 10 First Grade skills

#### **Second Grade**

P.A.: All skills

Phonics: All K & First Grade skills +  
4 of 6 Second Grade Skills

#### **Third Grade**

At the beginning of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students must have demonstrated mastery of all skills on the Phonological Awareness skills test.

By the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students must demonstrate mastery on all skills on the Phonics Assessment or they are considered at risk.

In order to be considered on grade level students baseline on the CBM Oral Reading Fluency Assessment should be at least at the 50% on the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade passage according to the Fluency Norms for Grade 3 (page 7-112)

2. Which screening instruments are recommended to be used with Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade, and 3rd grade?

**Kindergarten** - give PA and first part of Phonics (taking them as far as they can go according to the Phonics Instructions)

**First Grade** - give PA and Phonics. (Again, taking them as far as they can go according to the Instructions) When an individual student has mastered all of the first grade phonics skills they should be given the Fluency Assessment.

**Second Grade** - give Phonics (if an individual does not master the kindergarten phonics skills, drop back and give PA). Give Fluency to all who have mastered the first grade skills on the Phonics.

**Third Grade** - Give Phonics and Fluency

3. What assessments does OCTP identify to measure comprehension, vocabulary and spelling?

**Emergent Literacy Checklist**

**Spelling: Words Their Way Spelling Inventories primary author Donald Bear.**

**Vocabulary & comprehension: we recommend for grade 1-3 the districts continue to use whatever assessments they are currently using.**

4. What assessment training is available for teachers, sites or districts wanting to use the Literacy First Battery of Screening Instruments?

**Taught in all Phase I of Literacy First (5-day session). Reviewed, as teachers indicate a need. Included in Phase II and Refresher courses. Reviewed and modeled, as needed, by consultants working in Phase IV schools.**

5. We have been giving out the [www.octp.org](http://www.octp.org) website. Is there another website that needs to be listed for training information?

**OCTP's vendor for Literacy First is East Central University (contact person is Jim Vercelli) website address is [www.ecok.edu](http://www.ecok.edu) click on Continuing Education, then on Literacy First. (The Fall training schedule will be posted by September 1<sup>st</sup>.)**