**Logo

Description automatically generated**The AK Reads Act requires the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) to provide a literacy screener to all districts in Alaska for use in Kindergarten to grade 3. DEED is proud to announce Amplify’ s mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition is the state-adopted literacy screener. It is free for Alaska public school districts to use in Kindergarten through fifth grade.

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| **General Questions** | |
| **Frequently Asked Questions** | **Answers** |
| **What is a literacy screener?** | * A literacy screener is a tool used to assess a student's acquisition of early literacy skills. A literacy screener assesses students on multiple individual literacy skills, often called measures. Measures are subtests used to determine proficiency levels within a specific domain, which may also be referred to as a sub-test, probe, assessment, exam, or test, depending on the screening suite chosen within the Early Literacy Screener. A probe is the measured material a student is presented with when assessing. * Literacy screeners are typically:   + quick, targeted assessments of discrete skills that indicate whether students are making adequate progress in reading achievement.   + Administered three times a year   + Valid and reliable   + Easy to administer |
| **What is the purpose of a literacy screener?** | * Universal screening for early literacy provides an evidence-based and proactive way to monitor the effectiveness of Tier 1 reading instruction and identify students who may be at risk for developing reading difficulties and need additional instruction or intervention. It is critical for educators to identify the potential for reading difficulties in the primary grades to provide support early and prevent reading difficulties from accumulating over time. Universal screening provides a standardized way to quickly, efficiently, and reliably predict students who may be at risk for reading difficulties. * Literacy screener data provides information educators can use to adapt instruction to meet the needs of students immediately. |
| **Who administers the literacy screener?** | * Literacy screening tools shall be administered by district staff who have taken the minimum training deemed appropriate by the state and the vendor.  Districts are to track and provide training documentation to DEED if asked. All assessors should follow the vendor’s specific guidelines and recommendations for valid implementation. |
| **How is this literacy screener tool used by teachers?** | * Educators use the results to evaluate Tier I instruction and set and monitor student literacy goals. |
| **How is a literacy screener administered?** | * Literacy screeners are usually administered three times a year. They are administered one-to-one or as a whole group if it is a computer-based assessment. Amplify has provided a video of one of the most common measures within a literacy screener, accessible by clicking the link [Oral Reading Fluency measure](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-RE3kqHv5c8). |

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| **Cost and Waiver Questions** | |
| Frequently Asked Questions | Answers |
| **How much does it cost for mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition?** | * DEED has purchased mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition for all Alaska public schools to use free of charge in Kindergarten through 5th grade. |
| **Are districts required to use mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition?** | * No, districts are not required to use the state-adopted literacy screener, mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition; however, the AK Reads Act does require districts to utilize an evidence-based reading screening tool approved by the state via a waiver application. |
| **Our district does not want to use mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition. What do we do?** | * Your district will need to apply for a literacy screener waiver on or before March 1st for the following school year. The application and evidence requested The literacy screener application is on the AK Reads Act webpage: [Literacy Wa](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/b314b64245ea494cbb8d6171667be6bc)iver Application |
| **Our district wants to apply for a waiver. Does the K-3 literacy screener need to have a dyslexia screener as part of that product or can a district have a separate K-3 literacy screener and a separate K-3 dyslexia screener?** | * If a district completes a waiver to use its own literacy screener, it must have a dyslexia screener as part of the requirements for approval. |
| **When will my district know if we are approved to use a different literacy screener?** | * The district will be notified on or before April 15th if your waiver request has been approved. Submission of an application does not guarantee approval. |
| **Will DEED cover the cost of an approved literacy screener other than mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition?** | * If a district chooses to use a literacy screener other than the state-sponsored mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition and has obtained an approved waiver, the district is responsible for all costs associated with the approved literacy screener. |
| **How will data be reported to DEED?** | * Districts that operate on a state-approved literacy screener waiver will be responsible for reporting required data to DEED. Waiver districts must provide their data to DEED within seven calendar days after the end of each benchmark window. Data must be submitted for the 2023-2024 school year by October 6, 2023, January 26, 2024, and May 24, 2024, to comply with the literacy waiver. |

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| **mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition Questions** | |
| Frequently Asked Questions | Answers |
| **How is mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition administered?** | * mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition measures are administered one-to-one with the student, and student feedback is recorded within the mCLASS system. Assessments typically require 5-7 minutes per student. This literacy screener consists of multiple measures lasting approximately one minute in length, except for vocabulary and MAZE. The vocabulary and MAZE portions can be administered as a whole class on a device. |
| **Will there be an option for mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition to be used in grades other than K-3?** | * DEED is providing the use of mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition for use in K-5. Districts can explore the usage of mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition in grades outside of K-5; however, districts will be responsible for any additional costs. |
| **Can a school adopt mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition individually?** | * Per the AK Reads Act, selecting a state-approved literacy screener is a district-level decision. |
| **Are charter schools and homeschools required to use a literacy screener?** | * If the district employing a homeschool or correspondence program receives state funds, it must comply with the AK Reads Act. DEED will work with the administrators overseeing these programs to assist them in meeting the requirements of the Reads Act. |
| **How will mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition be reported to DEED?** | * Districts using mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition will automatically have their data reported to DEED at the end of each benchmark window. |

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| **Benchmark Assessments and Progress Monitoring Questions** | |
| Frequently Asked Questions | Answers |
| **Is there a checklist for getting started at the beginning of the year with mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition?** | * Absolutely! The checklist is accessible by contacting your District Testing Coordinator or clicking the [Beginning of the Year Checklist](https://start.amplify.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/07/2023-24-AK-mCLASS-Teacher-BOY-Check-List-.pdf?_gl=1*uroheg*_ga*MTYyNDEwNTczNS4xNjg3MzAwMTU3*_ga_KB37BKPPF6*MTY5NTgzMzUzOS4zNS4xLjE2OTU4MzQ1NTcuNjAuMC4w) link. |
| **Where can I find the benchmark windows?** | * The assessment benchmark windows are uploaded every spring for the following year to the DEED website. The 2023/2024 school year benchmark window is accessible by clicking on this link: [AssessmentCalendar\_2023-24.pdf (alaska.gov)](https://education.alaska.gov/akreads/AssessmentCalendar_2023-24.pdf) |
| **Why is there a two-week assessment window within the state’s larger benchmark window?** | * A two-week assessment window inside the larger window ensures consistent and equal instructional time between testing sessions. More information can be found by clicking on this link: [Assessment Window Explained](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_EC7z5_rZPZMNUc11KoaRBZwNceYb_vm/view?usp=sharing). |
| **Who can administer benchmark and progress monitoring measures?** | * Literacy screening tools shall be administered by district staff who have successfully completed the minimum training deemed appropriate by the state and the vendor and provide training documentation to DEED. All assessors should also follow the vendor’s specific guidelines and recommendations for valid implementation. |
| **What measures are used for the dyslexia screener?** | * For mCLASS users: The dyslexia screener is to be administered to students whose Composite score is Well Below Benchmark. The Rapid Automatized Naming (RAN) measure is to be administered in Kindergarten, and the Spelling measure is to be administered in grades 1-3. * For other state-approved literacy screeners: Follow the guidance the literacy screener vendor provides. |
| **When is the dyslexia screener given?** | * The dyslexia screener is to be administered within the three designated state benchmark testing windows.  The designated state benchmark windows can be found on the DEED Assessment webpage: [AK Assessment Calendar](https://education.alaska.gov/akreads/AssessmentCalendar_2023-24.pdf) |
| **Will the dyslexia screener allow educators to diagnose dyslexia? Or will it simply indicate a risk level for dyslexia?** | * The dyslexia screener will indicate the risk level for characteristics of dyslexia. A dyslexia risk indicator refers to the finding that a child’s skills indicate potential difficulty in learning to read and that intensive interventions are needed to prevent future reading difficulty. |
| **Is Progress Monitoring available for students with skills below grade level proficiency?** | * Yes, information about off-grade progress monitoring can be found at the following link, [Off-Grade Progress Monitoring](https://mclass.amplify.com/wgenhelp/md8e/index.htm?rscsh=1#t=Off-Grade_Progress_Monitoring.htm). |
| **Where can I find information about mCLASS reports?** | * Information about reports can be found in the [mCLASS Reporting Guide](https://amplify.com/pdf/uploads/2023/02/mCLASS_DIBELS8_ReportingGuide_022623.pdf). |
| **How many progress monitoring probes are available?** | * There are 20 forms available for each of the measures except for MAZE, which has 10 forms. MAZE is not recommended to be given as frequently. |

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| **Technology Questions** | |
| Frequently Asked Questions | Answers |
| **What kind of device is needed for mCLASS DIBELS 8th Edition?** | * mCLASS can be administered on tablets, computers, or paper/pencil. More information for device and network requirements can be found at the [Amplify Customer Requirements](https://amplify.com/customer-requirements/) webpage. |
| **Is the data exportable to a csv, excel file, and Google sheet?** | * Yes, all data is exportable into CSV or PDF and can be uploaded to Google. |

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| **Professional Development Questions** | |
| Frequently Asked Questions | Answers |
| **What training is available for mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition?** | * All staff administering the assessment or reviewing student data should be trained on the assessment mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition.   + New staff or new to mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition staff are required to attend a 6-hour Initial Training provided by Amplify or approved ToT Trainers.   + All staff should receive back-to-school refresher training, which is located within the mCLASS account Training tab.   + Each district is provided the opportunity to participate in a Training of Trainers. Trainers who successfully complete the course will be approved to train new and returning staff on mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition for their district.   **All training offered by Amplify can be found under the Professional Learning section of the** [**Amplify/DEED partner website**](https://amplify.com/alaska)**.** |

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| **Enrollment Questions** | |
| Frequently Asked Questions | Answers |
| **Can student accounts be integrated with Clever, ClassLink, or similar products?** | * Yes, Amplify will work with your district during the enrollment process. |
| **Who within the district is responsible for enrollment?** | * The District Test Coordinator is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the literacy screener, including enrollment and all communication between the state, the vendor, and district staff. |
| **How do you enroll?** | * The [Technical Onboarding Hub](https://start.amplify.com/onboarding/technical-onboarding-hub/) contains instructions on navigating the Administrator Portal for mCLASS.  If you need further assistance, contact Tracy Parker at [tracy.parker@alaska.gov](mailto:tracy.parker@alaska.gov) or Rachel Schweissing at [rachel.schweissing@alaska.gov](mailto:rachel.schweissing@alaska.gov). |