



Understanding DIBELS 8 for Families

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What is DIBELS 8?

DIBELS 8 is a reading assessment used to assess Kindergarten through 3rd grade students three times per year. The results provide information on student progress in early reading skills. DIBELS 8 is also used to comply with the [Colorado READ Act](#).

Why is DIBELS 8 important?

Basic reading skills are extremely important for children to grasp prior to 4th grade. It is imperative that students receive the necessary support as early as possible to be able to be successful later in reading. DIBELS 8 is an important assessment that will help guide teachers in instructional next steps in reading for students.

Which assessments does my child take?

Each grade level has different subtests that must be taken at three different times per year - fall, winter, and spring. All of the content is different during each period and includes text or passages that your child has never seen before.

- **Letter Naming Fluency:** Recognize individual letters and say their names
- **Phonemic Segmentation Fluency:** Segment spoken words into its component parts or sound segments
- **Nonsense Word Fluency:** Decode phonetically regular nonsense words based on the alphabetic principle
- **Word Reading Fluency:** Reading real words out of context
- **Oral Reading Fluency:** Accurately and fluently reading connected text
- **Maze:** Complete a passage through word selection based on syntax, vocabulary and comprehension

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| K | Letter Naming Fluency Phonemic Segmentation Fluency First Sound Isolation* Nonsense Word Fluency Word Reading Fluency | 1st | Letter Naming Fluency Phonemic Segmentation Fluency Nonsense Word Fluency Word Reading Fluency Oral Reading Fluency |
| 2nd | Nonsense Word Fluency Word Reading Fluency Oral Reading Fluency Maze | 3rd | Nonsense Word Fluency Word Reading Fluency Oral Reading Fluency Maze |

*First Sound Isolation is recommended at kindergarten beginning of year only for students who are unable to complete the Phonemic Segmentation Fluency measure.

How is the assessment given?

Most of the subtests in DIBELS 8 are given in a one-on-one setting where your child will be asked to orally respond or read text for one minute. Maze is the only assessment in the older grades where students log in to a site and take the three-minute assessment independently.

What do the results mean?

The results are reported by compiling an overall composite score and then scores for each subtest. Each score gives you and your child's teacher an indication of how your child is performing in each skill area. Your child's teacher will use these results to determine next steps in instruction and may differentiate or provide intensive interventions if necessary. If your child is well below grade level, there is a possibility that your child may be placed on a [READ Plan](#).

What can I do to support my child in reading?

Your child's teacher should be providing you with information on how your child performed soon after your child completes testing. You can use the following questions when talking to your child's teacher:

- What do these results mean for my child's reading performance?
- Are there areas that my child is struggling in? What are my child's strengths?
- What are some things I can do at home to help my child?

The following are some helpful resources for you to help your child at home:

- [Amplify's Home Connect Site for Families](#) (available in Spanish as well)
- [Colorado's Read with Me Today](#) (available in Spanish as well)
- [CDE's READ Act for Families](#)
- [Read Now Colorado](#)
- [Cultivating Readers at Home](#) (Spanish)
- [Supporting Your Child's Literacy Development](#)
- [DIBELS Tips for Families](#)
- [Detailed Parent Guide](#) (Spanish)