

Dear Wakefield Families,

We will be sending home your child’s early literacy universal screening data soon. We recently completed assessing our students and you will receive a Family Report that explains your child’s results on Wednesday, October 30th in their take home folder. As a reminder, all public schools in the state are required to assess students’ reading skills in grades K-3 at least twice a year. In Wakefield, we assess all K-4 students three times per year.

Early literacy universal screening is used to determine a student’s risk for reading difficulty and to guide us in providing reading support. ***It is not a diagnosis or determination of a disability.*** It provides us data to plan for targeted instruction that will support your child’s reading development.

**Our School’s Early Literacy Universal Screening Assessment**

Our school’s early literacy universal screening assessment is DIBELS 8, which is approved by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. DIBELS 8 provides data that helps us identify if students are above, at, or below grade level expectation at different times across the school year. We assessed all students at the beginning of the year, and recently completed our January middle of year assessments. If children are performing below grade level based on our mid-year data, they will be provided with targeted support in school to address the skills reflected in their assessment. We will administer this assessment again in May and by the end of the year, we would expect many more students are “on grade level.” Please remember that this assessment is only ONE measure of your child’s progress. The second page of the DIBELS Home Connect Report that you will receive describes the skills you can work on at home to support your child’s progress.

**Important Early Reading Skills**

Early literacy universal screening assessments are used to assess skills that may predict future reading difficulties. These skills include alphabetic knowledge, phonemic awareness, word reading, reading comprehension and rapid automatized naming. Skills are assessed differently depending on the student’s grade level.

<b>Alphabetic Knowledge</b>	Students’ familiarity with the names and sounds of letters and letter patterns.
<b>Phonemic Awareness</b>	Students’ knowledge of individual sounds in language.
<b>Word/Passage Reading</b>	Students’ ability to read words accurately and fluently.
<b>Reading Comprehension</b>	Students’ ability to understand and make meaning of a text.
<b>Rapid Automatized Naming</b>	Students’ ability to rapidly name a limited set of repeatedly presented known objects or letters.

**Family Communication**

If your child scored “needs most support,” we will be contacting you to discuss how we will be supporting your child. We will also offer an opportunity for a discussion of your child’s results, which will include next steps.

Early literacy universal screening is an important tool to help promote each child’s success as a reader. We are grateful for your continued partnership, and please contact me with any questions about early literacy universal screening.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Back  
Greenwood Principal

Matt Carter  
Woodville Principal

TJ Liberti  
Dolbeare Principal

Brian Schmitt  
Walton Principal