



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF **Public Instruction**

Fundamental Skills Screening (4K) and Universal Reading Screening (5K through grade 3): Establishing a Screening Window

This document provides information and guidance to support the implementation of the fundamental and universal reading screening required in Wis. Stat. §§ 118.016.

The school board or operator of the independent charter school (LEA) is responsible for ensuring fundamental skills screening and universal reading screening are administered in accordance with Wis. Stat. §§ 118.016. To accomplish this, each LEA will establish and implement a screening window for administering the fundamental and universal reading screeners.

Statutory Requirements and Relevant Assessment Information

An LEA's screening window for administering the fundamental and universal reading screeners must:

- meet the requirements of Wis. Stat. §§ 118.016 (see Table 1) and
- include administration within the window administration dates for aimswebPlus (see Table 2).

Table 1. Required reading screening windows per Act 20

	Fall No more than 45 days into the school year	Mid-year Middle of the school year	Spring on or before the 45th day prior to the last day of school
4K	Required*	Not required	Required
5K – grade 3	Required*	Required	Required

*Administration is optional for Fall of 2024 only

Table 2. aimswebPlus window administration dates (provided by Pearson)

Required Screening Window	Window Administration Dates
Fall	August 1 – November 30
Mid-year (5K – 3 only)	December 1 – March 15
Spring	March 16 – July 31

Considerations to Guide Local Decision Making

The goal: each young learner is a proficient reader.

Screening helps us understand which students may need additional support to meet and exceed grade-level standards. Identifying students in need of support accurately and quickly allows us to intervene as early as possible.

This is a reading screening.

This is a reading screening. Administration is relatively brief (around 5 minutes in some grades). Most sub-tests are administered orally by the teacher to a single student at a time. The reading screening is not part of statewide summative assessments (such as the Forward); while there are reporting requirements, results are not part of the school report card or considered for federal accountability.

Reading screening results must be communicated to families.

No later than 15 days after the reading screening assessment is scored*, schools must communicate all of the following to a student's parents or caregivers in the native language of the student's parents or caregivers: the student's score on the assessment, including each early literacy skill category assessed by the reading screener, percentile (if available); the definition of "at-risk" and the score on the reading screener that would indicate a student is at risk; and a plain-language description of each literacy skill the reading screener is designed to measure.

For some students, reading screening results may mean diagnostic assessment is required.

For 5K through grade 3, diagnostic assessment must be administered if the reading screening indicates the student is "at-risk"**. "At-risk" is defined as falling below the 25th percentile on the reading screening. The diagnostic assessment must be administered within the 10 days after the reading screening indicates that the student is "at-risk".

Determine what 45 days means for your school or district.

Under state law, “days” means calendar days, not school days. So, if a school’s last day is June 5, they must complete administration of the screener on or before April 21.

Be mindful of other assessments happening at the same time of year.

The required screening assessment windows may overlap with other state or local assessment windows. For example, it’s likely that the third-grade Forward assessment window may overlap with the reading screening assessment window. Also, the mid-year reading screening assessment window may overlap with Access administration for English learners. Local assessment windows could include other screening measures such as math or mental health.

* For aimswebPlus, scores are available at the time of administration. A score for a sub-test is available as it is administered. Parent communication about reading screener performance requires information from each sub-test. Therefore, the 15-day window begins once a student has completed all sub-tests.

** For aimswebPlus, scores are available at the time of administration. Therefore, diagnostic assessment must be administered, as necessary, within 10 days after the reading screening indicates that a student is “at-risk”.

For more information about 2023 Wisconsin Act 20, visit www.dpi.wi.gov/wi-reads
Contact early.literacy@dpi.wi.gov with specific questions