

K-3 Literacy Screener FAQ

Office of Teaching and Learning
Division of Diverse Learners

Webinar FAQ

Thank you for attending the K-3 Literacy Screener Guidance webinar with the Louisiana Department of Education, Division of Diverse Learners. Questions that were posed during the webinar and the corresponding answers are provided below.

Question 1

To whom do we address questions regarding the K-2 Alternate Assessment Decision-Making tool?

Response

The Louisiana Alternate Assessment Rubric (LAAR) and eligibility criteria were discussed during the presentation. A copy of the slide deck and a recording of the webinar will be located on the Louisiana Believes, Students with Disabilities landing [page](#). Specific questions can be emailed to lauren.miley@la.gov.

Question 2

If a student is non-verbal and does not qualify for the Alternate assessment, how is that to be documented in the IEP? For example, how will accommodations be added when eSER does not allow it for the K-3 literacy screener?

Response

Additional accommodation options are now available in eSER for the K-3 literacy screener.

Question 3

Is the K-3 literacy screener for general education students changing for the mid-year administration?

Response

At this time, DIBELS® 8th Edition will be the universal K-3 literacy screening tool utilized by all public schools.

Question 4

Will the K-3 accommodations decisions on the IEP be discussed?

Response

The webinar covered some possible response modes that could be utilized. A copy of the slide deck and recording of the webinar will be located on the Louisiana Believes, Students with Disabilities landing [page](#).

Question 5

When does the screening window open for winter?

Response

The tentative date for the opening of the middle of the year (MOY) screening window is December 1.

All districts have until January 26 to screen students on the operational screener (the one that will be used to report results).

Question 6

How does one determine on, below, or above grade level based on DIBELS 8[®] Edition?

Response

The [DIBELS[®] 8th Edition Administration and Scoring Guide](#) states: “DIBELS[®] 8th Edition takes a curriculum-based measurement (CBM) approach to assessing reading. The subtests offered in specific grades are aligned to curriculum and instruction typical for each grade, as well as to recommendations made by the IDA.”

Question 7

As a special education director/school psychologist, I have great reservations about the K-2 Alternate Assessment Decision-Making Tool and no cognitive test has been administered to such a young child.

Response

If no full-scale cognitive scores exist, the IEP team will proceed to part C of the decision-making tool.

Question 8

Are the parent flyers and videos available in translated versions?

Response

The [parent flyer](#) can be downloaded as a Word document and translated via Microsoft Word utilizing the translate feature. The following [link](#) contains the videos associated with the presentation and there are some videos available in multiple languages.

Question 9

Can the DIBELS middle of the year testing be administered prior to December 1st? (For example, commencing November 27th).

Response

The tentative date for the opening of the MOY testing window is December 1.

Question 10

To clarify, the assessment tool is not different, but the way it's assessed or graded is different. Is that correct?

Response

The assessment for the majority of K-3 students is DIBELS[®] 8th Edition. There are standard administration procedures for the administration of this tool as well as accommodations that may be considered by the student's IEP team. An alternate assessment option, for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, is the LAAR. It measures similar early literacy skills, such as letter

naming fluency; however, the assessment tool and scoring procedures are different than DIBELS® 8th Edition.

Question 13

To clarify, to be eligible to use the LAAR – a student has to first be determined to be eligible for alternate assessment, correct?

Response

That is correct. Students taking the LAAR are students with significant cognitive disabilities. IEP teams utilize the [K-2 Alternate Assessment Decision Making Tool](#) to determine if [K-2 alternate assessment criteria](#) have been met for kindergarten through second graders and for third graders the [3-11 alternate assessment criteria](#) can be used by IEP teams to determine if the LAAR will be the screening tool administered to generate scores for the K-3 literacy screenings.

Question 14

Will this Zoom presentation be uploaded to the Louisiana Believes website?

Response

The recorded version of this Zoom presentation and a copy of the slide deck will be uploaded on the Louisiana Believes, Students with Disabilities landing [page](#).

Question 15

For students who are currently in evaluation (initial), what is the cut-off date for eligibility consideration of K-2 alternate assessment? Does the initial IEP need to be in place 30 days prior to the testing window (to allow 30 days prior for accommodation implementation)?

Response

For winter and spring screenings, all accommodations must be added at least 30 days prior to the opening of the screening window.

Question 16

Are assistive technology devices going to be allowed for students who use communication devices?

Response

Yes, response accommodations have been updated on eSER for the K-3 literacy screening, which will include a student's communication device.

Question 17

Can English Learner students receive translated directions?

Response

The [English Learner Program Handbook](#) states that students classified as English Learners may receive accommodations during state testing if they are used routinely in the student's classroom instruction and assessment. Providing testing accommodations for ELs may increase the accuracy of results regarding mastery of content. The use of EL accommodations will be determined by the classroom teacher and EL teacher or other individuals providing language services. Directions given in the student's native language are a possible accommodation that may be considered.

Question 18

Does eSER ONLY allow users to check extended time if it is appropriate?

Response

IEP teams are charged with selecting the appropriate accommodations based on the individualized needs of the student. eSER is not programmed to determine which accommodations might be appropriate for the student.

Question 19

Extended time - Does the double time rule apply for the three second hesitation rule?

Response

If a student's IEP team determines that extended time is an appropriate accommodation then it could apply to the three second hesitation rule and other timed portions of DIBELS 8th Edition if the IEP team has deemed it necessary to receive accurate results.

Question 20

In the IEP, are K-3 testing accommodations identified under the 'testing' column or is there another place to identify, like with LEAP?

Response

Accommodation options are now available in eSER for the K-3 literacy screener.

Question 21

Based on slide 26, What happens if the IEP for Alternate Assessment has not been checked on the IEP for the MOY test? Our SPED was unaware of this accommodation at this time.

Response

IEPs should reflect the student's current accommodations and testing needs.

Question 22

Are there any actual testing materials for the alternative assessment or guidance for what to use to score the rubric?

Response

Test administrators have the flexibility to utilize a variety of manipulatives for the LAAR, based on the student's cognitive abilities and interests. Since these decisions are individualized for each student, there is not a set list of testing materials for the alternate assessments. However, some testing items might include magnetic letters, letter tiles, visuals, pattern books, other materials used during instruction, etc.

Question 23

What is the deadline to identify students for the alternative assessment for winter and spring testing?

Response

For winter and spring screenings, all accommodations must be added at least 30 days prior to the opening of the screening window.