



SALISBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

EFFORT AND ATTITUDE

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Mr. M.'s Memo

Dear Parents / Guardians:

As you may know, throughout the school year students are assessed and data is collected. Listed you will find information on 3 universal benchmark assessments.

What are DIBELS?

DIBELS are measures that help teachers and schools determine how students are performing on important reading skills. DIBELS stands for *Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills*. These measures are designed for students in grades K-6.

What skills are measured by DIBELS and why are they important?

The critical skills necessary for successful beginning reading include: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. The DIBELS measures assess students on four of these five critical skills, which are often referred to as the “Big Ideas” of reading.

How will the results be used?

Students’ scores on the DIBELS measures give the school information about whether or not a student is on track for grade-level reading success. A school can quickly identify students who do not meet the goals on each DIBELS measure and provide extra help. For example, if your child is reading words accurately, but slowly, the teacher can provide extra practice re-reading stories and passages to improve his or her reading rate or fluency. The teacher can use the progress monitoring scores to make sure your student receives extra help to improve other reading skills during the school year. Teachers can review scores on DIBELS measures for all the students in a class to make decisions about how to prepare their day-to-day reading lessons. School and district staff can also study the test scores across classrooms and grade levels to make decisions about how to best use resources to make sure that every child in the school, including your child, is on track to become an accurate and fluent reader.

What is DIBELS-Reading?

DIBELS-Readings is a set of measures for assessing early literacy skills from kindergarten to sixth grade. Some of the measures are group administered and some are individually administered.

The Vocabulary and Reading assessments are group administered on our secure website. These measures are untimed and take 10-15 minutes for Vocabulary and 20 to 30 minutes each for Reading.

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Why Benchmark Screening?

The easyCBM Reading assessments have been researched and validated specifically for benchmark screening and progress monitoring in kindergarten through 6th grade. Research indicates that early identification and early intervention are essential for helping students who are at risk for future difficulties, or are currently having difficulties. Screening all students, including those who met earlier goals, also provides a complete data set that is needed to determine if reading instruction is effective with all students at the school or district level.

Benchmark data can help answer the following types of questions:

- Is our reading program effective with all students at all grade levels?
- Are there exemplar schools (or classes) in our district on which we can model successful reading instruction?
- What are the strengths of our reading program?
- What areas of our reading program need improvement?
- Did we meet our literacy goals this year?
- Which students may need additional support?
- Is Jonny on-track for meeting reading goals?

DIBELS[®] Math is comprised of measures of early numeracy, computation, and problem solving that function as indicators of the essential skills that every child must master in order to become proficient in mathematics. The measures can be used to quickly and efficiently monitor the development of mathematics skills. DIBELS Math is designed for use in identifying children experiencing difficulty in the acquisition of basic mathematics skills, in order to provide support early and prevent the occurrence of later mathematics difficulties.

Why Use DIBELS-MATH?

The purposes of DIBELS Math are:

- to identify students who may be at risk for mathematics difficulties (universal screening);
- to help teachers identify areas to target instructional support;
- to monitor at-risk students while they receive additional, targeted instruction; and
- to examine the effectiveness of your school's system of instructional supports.

The advantages of DIBELS Math are:

- DIBELS Math has been specifically designed to be used within a problem-solving, outcomes-driven model of decision-making and response to intervention.
- DIBELS Math is directly aligned to the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics
- The DIBELS measures are reliable and valid.
- Research-based benchmark goals are being developed for the measures, which define a level at which the odds are in the student's favor of meeting later mathematics outcome goals.

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