



Department of Teaching and Learning- 2110 Washington Boulevard ·Arlington, Virginia 22204

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The *Dynamic Indicator of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS)* was recently administered to your child. DIBELS are measures that help teachers and schools determine how students are performing on important reading skills. The critical skills necessary for successful beginning reading include phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. The Parent Guide to DIBELS Assessment included in the table below describes the skills assessed by DIBELS and shows the DIBELS measures that were administered to your student based on grade level.

A student’s score on the DIBELS measures provides information about whether or not the student is on track for grade-level reading success. You can see your student’s individual measure scores and composite score (combination of scores on multiple DIBELS measures) as well as how those scores compare to the beginning of the year benchmarks for your student’s grade level on the *2020-2021 Parent Report: DIBELS 8th Edition* that accompanies this letter. **The composite score is the most robust predictor of overall risk related to reading proficiency.** Risk categories are color coded on the Parent Report and the following chart correlates the color coding with the risk categories.

<b>Well Below Goal</b> At Risk/Need Intensive Support	<b>Below Goal</b> Some Risk/Need Strategic Support	<b>Goal</b> Minimal Risk/Core Support	<b>Above Goal</b> Negligible Risk/Core Support
--	---	--	---

Results from DIBELS are being used to help determine individual student’s learning goals, support the planning of targeted instruction, monitor student progress, and raise awareness of students who need additional support or instruction in foundational reading skills. If you have questions about your student’s DIBELS assessment, please reach out to your student’s reading teacher.

Sincerely,

The Arlington Tiered System of Support/English Language Arts/Special Education Offices  
Department of Teaching and Learning

**Parent Guide to DIBELS Assessment**

Reading Skills	What is it? Why is it important?	DIBELS Measures	Grade Levels Assessed					
			K	1	2	3	4-6	7-8
Phonemic Awareness	Phonemic awareness refers to your child’s ability to hear and manipulate sounds in spoken words.	First Sound Fluency or Initial Sound Fluency	✓					
		Phoneme Segmentation Fluency	✓	✓				
Phonics	Phonics refers to the ability to learn the individual sounds in spoken language and map those sounds to specific written letters in the English language.	Nonsense Word Fluency	✓	✓	✓	✓		
		Word Reading Fluency	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Reading Fluency	Reading fluency refers to your child’s ability to read text accurately and automatically so that students can understand what they are reading.	Oral Reading Fluency		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		Word Reading Fluency	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Reading Comprehension	Reading comprehension refers to your child’s ability to understand what is read. It is the ultimate goal of reading instruction.	Maze			✓	✓	✓	✓
		Daze				✓	✓	
Letter Naming Fluency assesses a student’s ability to say the “names” of upper and lowercase letters in the English alphabet.		Letter Naming Fluency	✓	✓				