Screener for Students with Reading Difficulties

In accordance with Maryland's Ready to Read Act (2019), COMAR(2021), and the request from the Howard County Board of Education, all Howard County Public School System students[1] in grades kindergarten to 5th grade will participate in a screener for identifying potential reading difficulties.

Howard County has selected Amplify mClass with DIBELS 8th Edition as the universal screener. Please see below for screening areas measured in each grade. Students will complete the screener in four to twelve minutes and will be screened three times this year during the windows indicated below in the chart.

 Screening Dates:

Beginning of the year (BOY)	October 25, 2021 - November 5, 2021
Middle of the year (MOY)	January 18, 2022 - January 28, 2022
End of the year (EOY)	May 16, 2022 - May 27, 2022

How will the results be used?
Performance is an indicator of overall reading status and is not intended to be an in-depth or comprehensive measure of reading. Just like using a thermometer to take a temperature, which provides a quick indicator of general health, these quick assessments provide information about reading health on particular early reading skills.

A student's scores on the screener give school staff information about whether or not a student is on track for grade-level reading success. School staff can quickly identify students who may require extra help. Parents and guardians will receive a home report with their child's scores.

Some information on this parent notification is taken directly from the Ready to Read Act and COMAR, while other content was summarized to reflect HCPSS procedures.

https://dibels.amplify.com/

COMAR 13A.03.08 - Students at Risk for Reading Difficulties

Ready to Read Act Senate Bill 734

[1]*Students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) with reading goals will not participate in the reading screening.*

Screening Measures by Grade Level

Measure	Skill(s)	Description	K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
LNF Letter Name Fluency	Letter Names	The student is presented with a page of uppercase and lowercase letters and asked to name the letters within 1 minute.	☐	☐	▓	▓	▓	▓
PSF Phonemic Segmentation Fluency	Phonemic Awareness	The assessor says words, and the student says the individual sounds for each word within 1 minute.	☐	☐	▓	▓	▓	▓
NWF Nonsense Word Fluency	Letter Sounds Decoding	The student is presented with a list of VC and CVC nonsense words (e.g., sig, rav, ov) and asked to read the words within 1 minute.	☐	☐	☐	☐	▓	▓
WRF Word Reading Fluency	Word Reading	The student is presented with a page of words and asked to read as many words as possible within 1 minute.	☐	☐	☐	☐	▓	▓
ORF Oral Reading Fluency	Reading Fluency Reading Accuracy	The student is presented with a reading passage and asked to read aloud within 1 minute.	▓	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Maze	Basic Comprehension	The student is presented with a reading passage where some words are replaced by a multiple-choice box that includes the original word and two distractors. The student reads the passage silently and selects the word in each box that best fits the context within 3 minutes.	▓	▓	☐	☐	☐	☐
RAN Rapid Automatized Naming	Phonological Processing Speed	The student will be presented with five random alternated numbers on a screen, in rows of 10. This is a timed measure where the student will name all of the numbers accurately and rapidly.	☐	☐	☐	☐	▓	▓