

DIBELS

DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) is a battery of assessments that measure certain skills of literacy in young children (grades K-3). Assessment to kindergarten students is mandated by the state for all full-day kindergarten programs.

The skill indicators and the grade level in which they are administered are:

- Initial Sound Fluency (K) – Student’s ability to recognize beginning sounds
- Letter Naming Fluency (K, 1) – Student’s ability to recognize the letters of the alphabet (upper and lower case)
- Phoneme Segmentation Fluency (K, 1) – Student’s ability to identify and separate all the sounds in a word.
- Nonsense Word Fluency (K, 1, 2) (optional)) – Student’s ability to “read” one-syllable nonsense words.
- Oral Reading Fluency (1, 2, 3) – Amount of correct words per minute read by the student.

The results of the DIBELS assessment subtests identify students at various stages of risk in their reading development. By identifying these students and their areas of risk, intervention programs can be more easily organized. A student’s reading status on any one of the subtests is identified as *low risk*, *some risk*, and *at risk* (most severe). An overall reading status based on a compilation of the subtests identifies students in one of three categories:

- Benchmark: The assessment indicates that the student is at the proper level of reading development.
- Strategic Intervention: The student’s reading development is slightly delayed.
- Intensive Intervention: The student’s reading development is significantly delayed.

The following charts show the results of the various subtests and overall results of the DIBELS assessment for grades K-3. The numbers beneath the month heading indicate number of students.

2003-2004

Kindergarten

		<u>October</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>May</u>
Initial Sound Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	10	4	--
	<i>some risk</i>	10	14	--
	<i>low risk</i>	10	15	--
Letter Naming Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	18	16	18
	<i>some risk</i>	5	7	9
	<i>low risk</i>	7	10	6
Phoneme Segmentation Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	--	4	2
	<i>some risk</i>	--	5	9
	<i>low risk</i>	--	24	22
Nonsense Word Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	--	27	11
	<i>some risk</i>	--	3	7
	<i>low risk</i>	--	3	15
Overall Status:	<i>Intensive</i>	14	7	17
	<i>Strategic</i>	13	14	3
	<i>Benchmark</i>	3	11	12

<u>First Grade</u>		<u>October</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>May</u>
Letter Naming Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	7	--	--
	<i>some risk</i>	6	--	--
	<i>low risk</i>	6	--	--
Phoneme Segmentation Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	2	0	0
	<i>some risk</i>	5	1	0
	<i>low risk</i>	12	20	20
Nonsense Word Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	8	0	0
	<i>some risk</i>	6	7	0
	<i>low risk</i>	5	14	20
Oral Reading Fluency:	Avg. CWPM		(27)	(56)
	<i>at risk</i>	--	1	0
	<i>some risk</i>	--	7	4
	<i>low risk</i>	--	13	16
Overall Status:	<i>Intensive</i>	5	1	0
	<i>Strategic</i>	7	7	4
	<i>Benchmark</i>	7	13	16

<u>Second Grade</u>		<u>October</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>May</u>
Oral Reading Fluency:	Avg. CWPM	(46)	(81)	(96)
	<i>(Intensive) at risk</i>	3	3	3
	<i>(Strategic) some risk</i>	11	4	7
	<i>(Benchmark) low risk</i>	12	15	12

<u>Third Grade</u>		<u>October</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>May</u>
Oral Reading Fluency:	Avg. CWPM	(75)	(104)	(116)
	<i>(Intensive) at risk</i>	5	1	0
	<i>(Strategic) some risk</i>	5	4	3
	<i>(Benchmark) low risk</i>	10	13	15

2004-2005

<u>Kindergarten</u>		<u>August</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>May</u>
Initial Sound Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	7	0	--
	<i>some risk</i>	3	10	--
	<i>low risk</i>	16	15	--
Letter Naming Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	17	12	13
	<i>some risk</i>	1	4	3
	<i>low risk</i>	8	9	9
Phoneme Segmentation Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	--	1	1
	<i>some risk</i>	--	6	2
	<i>low risk</i>	--	18	22
Nonsense Word Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	--	9	8
	<i>some risk</i>	--	10	9
	<i>low risk</i>	--	6	8
Overall Status:	<i>Intensive</i>	9	3	13
	<i>Strategic</i>	10	11	2
	<i>Benchmark</i>	7	11	10

<u>First Grade</u>		<u>August</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>May</u>
Letter Naming Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	16	--	--
	<i>some risk</i>	6	--	--
	<i>low risk</i>	8	--	--
Phoneme Segmentation Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	4	1	0
	<i>some risk</i>	4	1	1
	<i>low risk</i>	22	28	30
Nonsense Word Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	14	4	1
	<i>some risk</i>	3	9	2
	<i>low risk</i>	13	17	28
Oral Reading Fluency:	Avg. CWPM		(27)	(56)
	<i>at risk</i>	--	5	2
	<i>some risk</i>	--	8	6
	<i>low risk</i>	--	17	23
Overall Status:	<i>Intensive</i>	16	6	2
	<i>Strategic</i>	1	7	6
	<i>Benchmark</i>	13	17	23

Second Grade

		<u>August</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>May</u>
Oral Reading Fluency:	Avg. CWPM	(46)	(81)	(96)
(Intensive)	at risk	2	1	2
(Strategic)	some risk	8	4	6
(Benchmark)	low risk	8	12	9

Third Grade

		<u>August</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>May</u>
Oral Reading Fluency:	Avg. CWPM	(75)	(104)	(116)
(Intensive)	at risk	3	3	4
(Strategic)	some risk	8	9	8
(Benchmark)	low risk	11	10	10

2005-2006

<u>Kindergarten</u>		<u>August</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>May</u>
Initial Sound Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	3	1	--
	<i>some risk</i>	7	8	--
	<i>low risk</i>	10	16	--
Letter Naming Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	7	4	4
	<i>some risk</i>	1	5	6
	<i>low risk</i>	12	16	13
Phoneme Segmentation Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	--	3	1
	<i>some risk</i>	--	3	1
	<i>low risk</i>	--	19	18
Nonsense Word Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	--	4	2
	<i>some risk</i>	--	5	5
	<i>low risk</i>	--	16	13
Overall Status:	<i>Intensive</i>	5	1	4
	<i>Strategic</i>	7	9	1
	<i>Benchmark</i>	8	15	15

<u>First Grade</u>		<u>August</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>May</u>
Letter Naming Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	13	--	--
	<i>some risk</i>	8	--	--
	<i>low risk</i>	6	--	--
Phoneme Segmentation Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	3	0	0
	<i>some risk</i>	2	2	1
	<i>low risk</i>	22	30	30
Nonsense Word Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	13	7	1
	<i>some risk</i>	5	14	8
	<i>low risk</i>	9	11	22
Oral Reading Fluency:	Avg. CWPM		(27)	(56)
	<i>at risk</i>	--	4	4
	<i>some risk</i>	--	11	12
	<i>low risk</i>	--	17	15
Overall Status:	<i>Intensive</i>	11	7	4
	<i>Strategic</i>	7	8	12
	<i>Benchmark</i>	9	17	15

Second Grade

		<u>August</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>May</u>
Nonsense Word Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	2	--	
	<i>some risk</i>	6	--	
	<i>low risk</i>	23	--	
Oral Reading Fluency:	Avg. CWPM	(46)	(81)	(96)
	<i>at risk</i>	4	6	6
	<i>some risk</i>	10	6	6
	<i>low risk</i>	17	24	23
Overall Status:	<i>Intensive</i>	4	6	6
	<i>Strategic</i>	10	6	6
	<i>Benchmark</i>	17	24	23

Third Grade

		<u>August</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>May</u>	
Oral Reading Fluency:	Avg. CWPM	(75)	(104)	(116)	
	<i>(Intensive)</i>	<i>at risk</i>	6	5	7
	<i>(Strategic)</i>	<i>some risk</i>	11	11	9
	<i>(Benchmark)</i>	<i>low risk</i>	6	13	12

2006-2007

<u>Kindergarten</u>		<u>August</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>May</u>
Initial Sound Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	4	4	--
	<i>some risk</i>	5	9	--
	<i>low risk</i>	14	10	--
Letter Naming Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	14	7	7
	<i>some risk</i>	1	5	8
	<i>low risk</i>	8	10	6
Phoneme Segmentation Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	--	7	6
	<i>some risk</i>	--	5	3
	<i>low risk</i>	--	10	12
Nonsense Word Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	--	6	7
	<i>some risk</i>	--	7	5
	<i>low risk</i>	--	8	9
Overall Status:	<i>Intensive</i>	8	4	6
	<i>Strategic</i>	8	12	5
	<i>Benchmark</i>	7	7	8

<u>First Grade</u>		<u>August</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>May</u>
Letter Naming Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	1	--	--
	<i>some risk</i>	6	--	--
	<i>low risk</i>	18	--	--
Phoneme Segmentation Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	0	0	0
	<i>some risk</i>	1	0	0
	<i>low risk</i>	24	25	26
Nonsense Word Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	3	3	1
	<i>some risk</i>	10	11	7
	<i>low risk</i>	12	11	18
Oral Reading Fluency:	Avg. CWPM		(27)	(56)
	<i>at risk</i>	--	0	1
	<i>some risk</i>	--	3	8
	<i>low risk</i>	--	22	17
Overall Status:	<i>Intensive</i>	0	1	1
	<i>Strategic</i>	7	4	8
	<i>Benchmark</i>	18	20	17

Second Grade

		<u>August</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>May</u>
Nonsense Word Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	2	--	--
	<i>some risk</i>	7	--	--
	<i>low risk</i>	16	--	--
Oral Reading Fluency:	Avg. CWPM	(46)	(81)	(96)
	<i>at risk</i>	1	1	2
	<i>some risk</i>	11	4	5
	<i>low risk</i>	13	22	21
Overall Status:	<i>Intensive</i>	1	1	2
	<i>Strategic</i>	11	4	5
	<i>Benchmark</i>	13	22	21

Third Grade

		<u>August</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>May</u>
Oral Reading Fluency:	Avg. CWPM	(75)	(104)	(116)
	<i>(Intensive) at risk</i>	11	8	8
	<i>(Strategic) some risk</i>	7	8	10
	<i>(Benchmark) low risk</i>	21	24	22

2007-2008

<u>Kindergarten</u>		<u>August</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>May</u>
Initial Sound Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	5	0	--
	<i>some risk</i>	10	16	--
	<i>low risk</i>	18	19	--
Letter Naming Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	11	7	7
	<i>some risk</i>	4	9	6
	<i>low risk</i>	18	19	21
Phoneme Segmentation Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	--	2	1
	<i>some risk</i>	--	11	9
	<i>low risk</i>	--	22	24
Nonsense Word Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	--	7	6
	<i>some risk</i>	--	7	9
	<i>low risk</i>	--	21	19
Overall Status:	<i>Intensive</i>	6	4	7
	<i>Strategic</i>	15	10	5
	<i>Benchmark</i>	11	21	22

<u>First Grade</u>		<u>August</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>May</u>
Letter Naming Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	5	--	--
	<i>some risk</i>	8	--	--
	<i>low risk</i>	7	--	--
Phoneme Segmentation Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	0	0	0
	<i>some risk</i>	4	2	0
	<i>low risk</i>	16	21	25
Nonsense Word Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	3	6	3
	<i>some risk</i>	10	10	3
	<i>low risk</i>	7	7	19
Oral Reading Fluency:	Avg. CWPM		(27)	(56)
	<i>at risk</i>	--	5	2
	<i>some risk</i>	--	9	12
	<i>low risk</i>	--	9	11
Overall Status:	<i>Intensive</i>	3	7	2
	<i>Strategic</i>	10	7	12
	<i>Benchmark</i>	7	9	11

Second Grade

		<u>August</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>May</u>
Nonsense Word Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	3	--	--
	<i>some risk</i>	10	--	--
	<i>low risk</i>	16	--	--
Oral Reading Fluency:	Avg. CWPM	(46)	(81)	(96)
	<i>at risk</i>	3	4	4
	<i>some risk</i>	13	10	12
	<i>low risk</i>	13	17	16
Overall Status:	<i>Intensive</i>	3	4	4
	<i>Strategic</i>	13	10	12
	<i>Benchmark</i>	13	17	16

Third Grade

		<u>August</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>May</u>
Oral Reading Fluency:	Avg. CWPM	(75)	(104)	(116)
	<i>(Intensive) at risk</i>	0	2	3
	<i>(Strategic) some risk</i>	9	6	5
	<i>(Benchmark) low risk</i>	21	20	21

2008-2009 DIBELS

<u>Kindergarten</u>		<u>August</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>May</u>
Initial Sound Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	5	3	--
	<i>some risk</i>	2	6	--
	<i>low risk</i>	22	19	--
Letter Naming Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	14	6	9
	<i>some risk</i>	8	1	7
	<i>low risk</i>	7	21	13
Phoneme Segmentation Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	--	7	3
	<i>some risk</i>	--	6	6
	<i>low risk</i>	--	15	20
Nonsense Word Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	--	7	7
	<i>some risk</i>	--	6	4
	<i>low risk</i>	--	15	18
Overall Status:	<i>Intensive</i>	5	5	8
	<i>Strategic</i>	19	3	4
	<i>Benchmark</i>	5	20	17

<u>First Grade</u>		<u>August</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>May</u>
Letter Naming Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	5	--	--
	<i>some risk</i>	7	--	--
	<i>low risk</i>	21	--	--
Phoneme Segmentation Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	4	0	0
	<i>some risk</i>	0	0	0
	<i>low risk</i>	29	34	34
Nonsense Word Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	3	5	2
	<i>some risk</i>	11	19	5
	<i>low risk</i>	19	10	27
Oral Reading Fluency:	Avg. CWPM		(27)	(56)
	<i>at risk</i>	--	5	4
	<i>some risk</i>	--	15	9
	<i>low risk</i>	--	14	21
Overall Status:	<i>Intensive</i>	3	7	4
	<i>Strategic</i>	7	13	9
	<i>Benchmark</i>	23	14	21

Second Grade

		<u>August</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>May</u>
Nonsense Word Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	--	--	--
	<i>some risk</i>	--	--	--
	<i>low risk</i>	--	--	--
Oral Reading Fluency:	Avg. CWPM	(46)	(81)	(96)
	<i>at risk</i>	3	4	5
	<i>some risk</i>	9	6	7
	<i>low risk</i>	15	14	15
Overall Status:	<i>Intensive</i>	3	4	5
	<i>Strategic</i>	9	6	7
	<i>Benchmark</i>	15	14	15

Third Grade

		<u>August</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>May</u>	
Oral Reading Fluency:	Avg. CWPM	(75)	(104)	(116)	
	<i>(Intensive)</i>	<i>at risk</i>	5	9	3
	<i>(Strategic)</i>	<i>some risk</i>	11	6	11
	<i>(Benchmark)</i>	<i>low risk</i>	15	16	17

2009-2010 DIBELS

<u>Kindergarten</u>		<u>August</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>May</u>
Initial Sound Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	6	2	
	<i>some risk</i>	8	11	
	<i>low risk</i>	15	15	
Letter Naming Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	18	8	
	<i>some risk</i>	5	7	
	<i>low risk</i>	6	13	
Phoneme Segmentation Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	--	9	
	<i>some risk</i>	--	5	
	<i>low risk</i>	--	14	
Nonsense Word Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	--	8	
	<i>some risk</i>	--	11	
	<i>low risk</i>	--	9	
Overall Status:	<i>Intensive</i>	11	5	
	<i>Strategic</i>	13	10	
	<i>Benchmark</i>	5	13	

<u>First Grade</u>		<u>August</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>May</u>
Letter Naming Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	8	--	
	<i>some risk</i>	10	--	
	<i>low risk</i>	10	--	
Phoneme Segmentation Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	5	1	
	<i>some risk</i>	4	3	
	<i>low risk</i>	19	23	
Nonsense Word Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	6	3	
	<i>some risk</i>	10	11	
	<i>low risk</i>	12	13	
Oral Reading Fluency:	Avg. CWPM		(27)	(56)
	<i>at risk</i>	--	3	
	<i>some risk</i>	--	12	
	<i>low risk</i>	--	12	
Overall Status:	<i>Intensive</i>	5	4	
	<i>Strategic</i>	10	11	
	<i>Benchmark</i>	13	12	

Second Grade

		<u>August</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>May</u>
Nonsense Word Fluency:	<i>at risk</i>	--	--	--
	<i>some risk</i>	--	--	--
	<i>low risk</i>	--	--	--
Oral Reading Fluency:	Avg. CWPM	(44)	(81)	(96)
	<i>at risk</i>	9	8	
	<i>some risk</i>	8	4	
	<i>low risk</i>	15	21	
Overall Status:	<i>Intensive</i>	9	8	
	<i>Strategic</i>	8	4	
	<i>Benchmark</i>	15	21	

Third Grade

		<u>August</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>May</u>
Oral Reading Fluency:	Avg. CWPM	(77)	(104)	(116)
	<i>(Intensive)</i>	<i>at risk</i>	7	5
	<i>(Strategic)</i>	<i>some risk</i>	9	14
	<i>(Benchmark)</i>	<i>low risk</i>	12	10