DIBELS 8th Edition is a set of short (one-minute) fluency measures that can be used for universal screening, benchmark assessment, and progress monitoring in Kindergarten to 8th grade. DIBELS 8th Edition provides educators with standards for gauging the status and progress of all students.

Why Use DIBELS?

DIBELS 8th Edition represents the culmination of decades of research into supporting students in becoming successful readers. DIBELS uses state-of-the-art, research-based methods for designing and validating curriculum-based measures of reading. As a result, DIBELS is more useful for more students in more grades than ever before.

The purpose of DIBELS is to provide educators with standards for gauging the status and progress of all students. DIBELS subtests measure critical skills and abilities that are necessary for reading success, and most offer both benchmark and progress-monitoring forms.

Each benchmark subtest has three cut-scores: a risk cut-score, a benchmark goal, and an ambitious goal. Students with scores falling below the risk cut-score are identified as at risk of not meeting end-of-year expectations in reading. These students require intensive intervention to get back on track in reading. Students scoring above the risk cut-score but below the benchmark goal are considered at some risk for not meeting end-of-year expectations. They require strategic planning on the part of educators to determine appropriate strategies to support the students to meet subsequent literacy goals. Students scoring above the

benchmark cut-score but below the ambitious goal are identified as at minimal risk for not meeting end-of-year expectations in reading; put more positively, they have a high likelihood of meeting end-of-year learning goals in reading. Finally, students scoring above the ambitious goal are at negligible risk for not meeting end-of-year goals; they have the highest likelihood of meeting grade-level expectations. Using these cuts, teachers can easily identify students who will most benefit from intensive instruction, strategic instruction, and core instruction alone.

A new benefit of DIBELS benchmark subtests is that they utilize advanced test design principles to provide teachers with instructionally relevant information on all readers. In addition to identifying students at different levels of risk, the letter-naming fluency (LNF), phonemic segmentation fluency (PSF), nonsense word fluency (NWF), and word reading fluency (WRF) subtests support item analyses that can suggest next instructional steps. This feature is brand new in DIBELS 8th Edition. This feature increases the utility of DIBELS for all students when combined with regular benchmark testing (i.e., three times a year), making DIBELS a more powerful tool than ever before.

Another purpose of DIBELS is to monitor student progress. Progress monitoring is essential for ensuring that students identified for intensive and strategic support actually benefit from this support as intended. Progress monitoring enables interventionists to change and intensify intervention until the desired pattern of improvement is achieved. By progress monitoring students using DIBELS, teacher can determine whether they are responding to instruction or would benefit from a change in instruction.

Advantages of DIBELS 8

DIBELS 8th Edition has a lot to offer that no other curriculum-based measurement (CBM) system, including previous editions of DIBELS, ever has before. In fact, DIBELS 8th Edition is more useful for more students in more grades than ever before. The biggest advantages of DIBELS 8 are:

- **New grade levels.** DIBELS can now be used from kindergarten through eighth grade.
- **Enhanced composite scores.** DIBELS composite scores have been overhauled to make them better than ever at predicting risk.
- **Consistent subtests within grade.** Subtests relevant to a given grade are offered at every benchmark period.
- **New and revised subtests.** DIBELS now includes word reading fluency and existing subtests have undergone extensive improvement efforts to maximize their usefulness.
- **Efficient benchmarking procedures.** Discontinue benchmarking rules based on student performance save time and frustration.
- **Expanding the safety net.** DIBELS now offers a word reading fluency measure that can help to identify students with poor sight word and irregular word reading skills that other subtests miss. Maze is now offered for second grade, nonsense word fluency has been extended to third grade and

includes advanced phonics patterns, and oral reading fluency and maze have been extended through eighth grade.

- **Expanding the utility.** DIBELS forms now have items that progress in difficulty beyond risk cut-points that provide data teachers can use in planning instruction for all students.
- **Zones of Growth for interpreting progress.** DIBELS offers Zones of Growth, revised for the 8th Edition, that can be used to interpret all students' growth relative to a norming sample.
- **Dyslexia screening.** DIBELS subtests offer efficient and cost-effective measures of processing speed, phonological awareness, and the alphabetic principle for dyslexia screening purposes. For more information, read our Dyslexia Screening and [DIBELS 8th Edition White Paper](#).

New Grade Levels, Greater Consistency, and Efficient Benchmarking

DIBELS 8th Edition now extends all the way through eighth grade. That means you can screen and monitor student progress through the end of middle school. DIBELS 8th Edition also offers consistent subtests across all three benchmark periods within each grade. That means you can track students' progress in multiple skills over the course of a year. To improve benchmarking efficiency, DIBELS provides a recommended order of subtest administration with discontinue benchmarking rules. These rules discontinue all DIBELS assessment if a student demonstrates very low or very high ability, thereby saving frustration on the part of students and time overall.

New Composite Scores

DIBELS 8th Edition also offers new composite scores. A major drawback of the old composite scores was that the composite scores were only about as accurate in predicting risk as the predominant measure for a given benchmark period. The new DIBELS 8th Edition composite scores are designed to offer increased value in terms of not only risk prediction, but also progress and growth monitoring. The DIBELS 8 Composite Scores now offer the single best indicator of overall risk across grades and benchmark periods.

New and Revised Subtests that Expand the Accuracy and Utility of DIBELS

DIBELS 8th Edition discontinues a few old DIBELS subtests, introduces a new subtest, and revises other subtests. The discontinued subtests – First Sound Fluency (FSF), Initial Sound Fluency (ISF), Word Use Fluency (WUF), and Retell Fluency (RTF) – have been dropped because historically they have yielded little additional useful information beyond what other subtests provide. DIBELS has added a new subtest: Word Reading Fluency (WRF). The addition of WRF expands the safety net for identifying students at risk for not meeting proficiency standards in reading. Finally, we have revised and improved each of the other DIBELS subtests to improve how informative DIBELS measures are for instructional decision making. For example, DIBELS Maze is now available in Grades 2-8. Items on the LNF, PSF, NWF, and WRF subtests now progress in difficulty past the risk cut-scores so that DIBELS subtests provide instructionally relevant data for all students, not just those at most risk, thereby expanding the utility of DIBELS.

Zones of Growth for Progress Monitoring of All Students

The DIBELS Zones of Growth have been updated for the 8th Edition and allow teachers to understand which students are making above average, average, and below average improvement in their reading skills relative to students with similar initial scores. This norming ensures that growth expectation are realistic given each student's starting skills. Zones of Growth can also be used to set learning goals for all students and are especially useful for monitoring the progress of students who perform below the benchmark goal to determine whether they would benefit from increased support.

Dyslexia Screening

DIBELS 8th Edition has also been validated as a dyslexia screener. As a result, you can be confident that DIBELS cut-scores detect risk for reading problems, including dyslexia, making DIBELS measures an efficient and cost-effective way to screen for dyslexia. DIBELS users can be confident that their screening measures are trustworthy for dyslexia screening and not just for detecting risk of not meeting end-of-year proficiency expectations. For more information, read our Dyslexia Screening and DIBELS 8th Edition White Paper.

Where can I get DIBELS 8th Edition?

For your convenience we provide paper-based testing materials as a free download. Alternatively, DIBELS 8 Material Kits are available for purchase through our partners at Amplify. Amplify also offers the DIBELS Data System (DDS) and a mobile version of DIBELS 8th Edition on mCLASS.

- Download Free Materials
- Purchase Materials from Amplify
- Learn more about the Data System at Amplify

For more information about professional development options, free resources, testing material downloads, and research publications visit our website at: https://dibels.uoregon.edu