### What is the DIBELS Next® Assessment?

DIBELS Next® (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) is an early reading diagnostic and formative assessment for grades K–2. DIBELS Next® helps teachers understand student reading development by measuring progress on a set of five important foundational literacy skills: First Sound Fluency, Letter Naming Fluency, Phoneme Segmentation Fluency, Nonsense Word Fluency, and Oral Reading Fluency. The DIBELS Next® allows educators to diagnose individual student needs and closely monitor student progress towards reading proficiency. School personnel can use DIBELS Next® data to make instructional decisions and carry out/monitor interventions and supports. DIBELS Next® is sometimes used in partnership with another assessment, called the Text Reading & Comprehension (TRC) assessment. The TRC assesses reading accuracy and comprehension and provides an overall reading proficiency level for each student. Together, TRC and DIBELS Next® form the mCLASS®: Reading 3D™ assessment system. There is also a Spanish version of DIBELS Next® called IDEL. IDEL is intended for English Learners whose primary language of instruction is Spanish.

### Components of the DIBELS Next® Assessment

**DIBELS Next® provides the following information to teachers:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Grade Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Sound Fluency (ability to recognize the first sound in a word)</td>
<td>K</td>
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<tr>
<td>Letter Naming Fluency (ability to identify the letters of the alphabet)</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phoneme Segmentation Fluency (ability to isolate the distinct letter sounds that make up words)</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonsense Word Fluency (ability to decode unfamiliar words using phonics)</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Reading Fluency (number of words read correctly per minute)</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### What is the purpose of this assessment?

The purpose of the assessment is to help teachers identify students who may need additional support, group students for targeted intervention, and monitor progress in early literacy skills.

### Who should be assessed?

CPS schools can select their preferred early literacy assessment tool from a range of options. Each year, the decision to participate in DIBELS Next® is made at the school level by the principal and teachers.

DIBELS Next® can be administered to all K-2 students at participating schools as a supplement to the TRC assessment. However, teachers are only required to administer DIBELS Next® to students whose reading level is classified as Below Proficient or Far Below Proficient according to the TRC. DIBELS Next® is optional for all other students.

### How are results reported?

Results are reported through a web-based platform at the student, class, school, network and district levels. Parent reports are also available. Results are reported many ways, but most reports include proficiency levels described by the following colors and terms:

- **Red/Well Below Benchmark** (student requires significant instructional support)
- **Yellow/Below Benchmark** (student requires some instructional support)
- **Green/Benchmark** (student is performing in accordance with grade level expectations)

### How are results used?

DIBELS Next® results are used for teacher planning, student grouping and measuring the effectiveness of academic interventions.

### Where can I find additional information about the DIBELS Next® Assessment?

- **CPS staff** can find additional information on the CPS Knowledge Center mCLASS Assessments page here: [https://sites.google.com/a/cps.edu/kc/assessment/mclass-assessment](https://sites.google.com/a/cps.edu/kc/assessment/mclass-assessment)
- **Parents** can find additional information at [https://www.amplify.com/assessment/mclass-dibels-next](https://www.amplify.com/assessment/mclass-dibels-next) or by speaking with your child’s
teacher.
Visit [cps.edu/assessment](https://cps.edu/assessment) for information on Chicago Public Schools full balanced assessment system.