



LEAD. ENGAGE. DISCOVER.

BOSCOBEL AREA SCHOOLS

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Middle School/High School
300 Brindley Street
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Elementary School
200 Buchanan Street
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Dear Parent(s)/Caregiver(s),

We are excited to share important information regarding how we will assess your child's reading skills. In Wisconsin, all students in grades 4K-3 will participate in the aimswebPlus Early Reading Screener. This quick assessment helps us evaluate your child's reading abilities.

What Skills Will Be Assessed?

The screener focuses on key literacy skills such as alphabet knowledge, letter-sound knowledge, phonemic awareness, decoding, and oral vocabulary. The specific skills assessed will vary by grade level. Please refer to the back of this letter for detailed information on these skills and the availability of assessments in languages other than English.

When Will the Reading Screener Take Place?

The aimswebPlus Early Reading Screener will be conducted 1-3 times each year. Below is the screening schedule for the 2024-2025 school year:

September 3-October 17
December 1-January 10
March 17-April 4

What Information Will Parents/Caregivers Receive?

You will receive your child's test results within 15 days of the assessment. The school will provide a report detailing your child's score and how it compares to their peers at the same grade level, known as a percentile rank. Additionally, we encourage you to check the school website for information on Act 20 including special education and dyslexia.

How Will This Information Be Used?

The results from the early reading screener are a valuable tool for your child's teacher to understand their reading skills. Please note that this assessment does not diagnose dyslexia or other disabilities. If your child's score falls below the 25th percentile, the teacher will reach out to discuss further evaluation and collaborate on a personalized reading plan to help your child achieve grade-level goals.

How Can I Prepare My Child for the Early Reading Screener?

No special preparation is required for the aimswebPlus reading screener. Simply ensure your child attends school as usual. The assessment is brief and should be a low-pressure experience for your child.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the early reading screener, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or principal.



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Early Reading Skills

2023 Wisconsin Act 20 requires that children are assessed in the early reading skills of alphabet knowledge, letter-sound knowledge, phonemic awareness, and decoding. These skills are assessed differently depending on the student's grade level. You can learn more about these important early reading skills below:

- Alphabet knowledge: Knowing the names of printed letters.
- Letter sound knowledge: Knowing the sounds of printed letters.
- Phonemic awareness: Hearing , saying, and manipulating individual sounds in spoken words.
- Decoding skills: Connecting sounds to written letters to read printed words.
- Oral vocabulary: Understanding the meanings of words when speaking or listening.

***aimswebPlus* Early Reading Screening Assessments**

The *aimswebPlus* reading screeners that measure the skills above are based on a student's grade level. You can learn more about these assessments below:

- **Letter naming fluency (5K):** Measures a student's knowledge of upper-and lower-case letters. Your child will have one minute to say the names of visually presented upper-and lowercase letters that they know.
- **Letter word sounds fluency (4K-1st grade):** Measures a student's letter sound knowledge. Your child will have one minute to say the sounds of visually presented letters, syllables, and words that they know.
- **Initial sounds (4K-5K):** Measures a student's phonemic awareness. Your child will be provided a page with four pictures. Your child will be asked to either point to a picture of a word that matches the initial sound the teacher says or make the initial sound of a word spoken by the teacher. This assessment will take 2-3 minutes.
- **Phoneme segmentation (1st grade):** Measures a student's phonemic awareness. Your child will listen to a word that is spoken by the teacher and then say each sound they hear in the word. This assessment will take 2-3 minutes.
- **Auditory vocabulary (5K-1st grade):** Measures a student's knowledge of words commonly found in 5-year old Kindergarten and Grade 1 reading materials. Your child will match a picture to an orally presented word. This assessment will take 2-4 minutes.
- **Vocabulary (2nd- 3rd grade):** Measures a student's knowledge of the meanings of grade-appropriate words. Your child will choose the meaning of target words by selecting from multiple choice options. This is an untimed, computerized assessment that typically takes 4-7 minutes.
- **Oral reading fluency (1st-3rd grade):** Measures a student's decoding skills. Your child will read two stories aloud, each for one minute.