READ-AT-HOME PLAN RESOURCES

A read-at-home plan is required to be provided to parents of any K-3 student who has been identified with a substantial deficiency in reading. The Florida Department of Education has compiled resources that each school district must include into a read-at-home plan provided to the parent of a student who is identified as having a substantial reading deficiency. A read-at-home plan includes information and resources connected to the essential components of reading: oral language, phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. These resources are available in an electronic format that is accessible online, and a hardcopy of such resources must be provided by the school upon parent request. To access these resources digitally, click on each link provided below.

PARENT GUIDES FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS

The Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) are literacy standards for Florida students that will shape their education and make Florida the most literate state in the nation. The B.E.S.T. Standards will pave the way for Florida students to receive a world-class education and prepare them for a successful future. Parent Guides have been developed to help families learn more about the new B.E.S.T. ELA Standards.

Parent Guides for English Language Arts Standards

SUPPORTING READING AT HOME

Learning to read begins at home through everyday interactions with children, long before they attend school. Supporting literacy development as children enter elementary school and progress through grades positively affects their reading ability. The Regional Educational Laboratory Southeast provides family activities with easy-to-follow instructions to help children practice foundational reading skills at home. Foundational skills include oral language, phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Phonological awareness, alphabetic skills and language skills are the best predictors of early reading success (B.E.S.T., Appendix E, p. 206). There are short family videos for tips and support on how to use the activities to help children grow as readers. Using the family activities at home can help children develop language, link sounds to letters, blend letters and word parts to read and write the words and ultimately read for understanding.

Supporting Reading at Home

NEW WORLDS READING

The New Worlds Reading Initiative gives hundreds of thousands of eligible PreK-5 students the chance to build personalized libraries that reflect their unique interests and backgrounds, at no cost to families or schools. Your child may be eligible to receive books and supporting materials each month.

New Worlds Reading Initiative

The New Worlds Scholarship Accounts provide $500 scholarships to eligible K-5 students. The program offers parents/guardians access to education savings accounts to pay for tuition and fees related to part-time tutoring, summer and after-school literacy or mathematics programs and instructional materials (including desktop/laptop computers and tablets and curriculum related to reading, literacy or mathematics). Your child may be eligible for a New Worlds Scholarship Account.

New Worlds Scholarship Accounts

OVERVIEW OF ASSESSMENT TYPES

As students progress from kindergarten through third grade, they should be steadily developing the skills they need to become grade-level readers. While students are learning to read, educators and parents can monitor students to see if they are on track to become successful readers. Florida uses four types of assessments to monitor students' progress in reading.

Overview of Assessment Types

Screening – The purpose of screening is to identify the probability of risk or success in reading achievement.

Progress Monitoring – The purpose of progress monitoring, also called interim or formative assessment, is to determine whether students are learning the skills taught and/or meeting benchmarks throughout the school year.

Diagnostic – The purpose of a diagnostic assessment is to identify students' strengths and weaknesses for students identified as at-risk on a screening assessment.

Summative – The purpose of summative, or outcome, assessment is to evaluate students' performance relative to a set of content standards generally administered at the end of the school year.

STATEWIDE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) ASSESSMENTS

All Florida students participate in the state's assessment and accountability system. The primary goal of these assessments is to provide information about student learning in Florida, as required by Florida law (see Section (s.) 1008.22, Florida Statutes (F.S.)).

Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST): FAST assessments provide information in mastering grade-level standards for PreK-grade 10 and provide information on students' progress to parents, teachers and school and program administrators. FAST assessments are administered during three Progress Monitoring (PM) windows: beginning of the school year (PM1), middle of the school year (PM2) and end of the school year (PM3).

For more information regarding FAST assessments, please visit fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/best/. For resources related to FAST assessments, visit flfast.org/fast.html.

Grades 3–10 FAST ELA Reading PM3: In accordance with s. 1008.22(3)(a), F.S., PM3 is a statewide, standardized assessment in ELA and, beginning in 2023-24, will be used for accountability purposes.

Florida Alternate Assessment (FAA): The FAA is aligned with Access Points - Alternate Academic Achievement Standards (AP-AAAS). AP-AAAS reflect the most salient content of Florida's statewide academic achievement standards that apply to all students in the same grade. Students with a most significant cognitive disability who meet the criteria in the Rule 6A-1.0943, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Statewide Assessment for Students with Disabilities may participate in the FAA if their individual educational plan (IEP) team determines it is the most appropriate assessment option.

SUPPORTS FOR PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parental involvement is extremely important for supporting the education of all students, including students with disabilities. For students who have difficulty learning, the Florida Department of Education provides a variety of supports to assist parents in being involved in the educational decision-making process.

Parent Information | Dispute Resolution Systems

EVALUATING AND IDENTIFYING A STUDENT FOR EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION

When a parent, teacher or caregiver suspects a student may have a disability, there are important steps that are necessary to know and take. A diagnosis of a medical condition alone is not sufficient to establish eligibility for exceptional student education. Consistent with Title 34, Section 300.306 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the Individual Educational Plan (IEP) team must consider multiple sources of data and information to determine not only if the student is a student with a disability, but also that the student requires special education and related services. If a parent submits documentation from a licensed professional under chapter 490, F.S., which demonstrates that a K-3 student has been diagnosed with dyslexia, evidence-based interventions must be provided based on the student's specific areas of difficulty as identified by the licensed professional (see s. 1008.25(5), F.S.). The Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEESS) has many resources to guide parents, teachers and caregivers through the process of evaluating and identifying a student who is suspected of being a student with a disability requiring exceptional student education.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITY

Specific Learning Disability is a term that describes an Exceptional Student Education eligibility category, which refers to learning disorders that can affect a student's ability to read, write, listen, speak, reason and apply basic math skills.

Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

English Language Learners (ELLs) have a wide variety of supports available to increase the essential components of reading. Each school district has an ELL Plan detailing strategies and resources to support the academic achievement of ELLs. More information may be located at: Student Achievement Through Language Acquisition (SALA).

DID YOU KNOW?

Reading at or above grade level by the end of third grade sets students on a path to learn, graduate and succeed.

LEARNING DISABILITY	TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS
Dyslexia: A specific learning disability or language-based disability neurobiological in nature that can range from mild to severe	• Difficulty with accurate and fluent word recognition and spelling • Confusion in sequence of letters and sounds • Easily distracted, difficulty in retaining information • Temporal and spatial difficulties • More than average anxiety, frustration or avoidance behaviors • Difficulties persist despite receiving reading instruction that is effective for most children • May co-exist with dyscalculia and/or dysgraphia • Does not include learning problems that are primarily the result of a visual, hearing, motor, intellectual or emotional/behavioral disability, limited English proficiency or environmental factors
Dysgraphia: A learning disability primarily affecting writing	• Variably shaped and poorly formed letters, excessive erasures and cross-outs in writing • Poor spacing between letters and words • Letter and number reversals beyond early stages of writing • Awkward, inconsistent pencil grip • Heavy pressure and hand fatigue • Slow to write and copy with legible or illegible handwriting
Dyscalculia: A learning disability affecting mathematics	• Difficulty with number sense, including counting and place value • Extreme difficulty in performing simple calculations, telling time or working with money • Difficulty with mental arithmetic skills • Difficulty predicting appropriate procedures based on understanding patterns • A poor sense of estimation • Unable to organize objects in a logical way • Self-checking work and finding alternate ways to solve problems • High levels of mathematical anxiety
Developmental Aphasia: A learning disability affecting primarily language and communication	• Poor comprehension skills • Difficulty in forming words and sentences, speaking and word recall • Trouble understanding speech • Difficulty in reading and writing • Leaving out words like 'the,' 'of' and 'was' from speech • Speaking only in short phrases that are produced with great effort • Putting words together in the wrong order