

The Third Grade Reading Guarantee and the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment – Literacy

September 13, 2012

The Third-Grade Reading Guarantee now requires that students in kindergarten through grade three take a reading diagnostic to determine if the student is reading at grade level. The diagnostics are given at the beginning of each school year. Because of this, ODE should only expect students to have mastery of the previous school year’s material. It is the goal of the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) to develop or identify the best possible tools to help diagnose reading deficiencies. This is why ODE recommends using the previous school year’s diagnostic screener. This works for all grades, except for kindergarten.

In an effort to use diagnostic assessments aligned to the common core, ODE has recommended that schools use the ODE kindergarten short screener (or a comparable tool) to assess kindergarten students. The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment--Literacy (KRA-L) is not aligned to the common core state standards. It is aligned to Ohio’s original early learning content standards which were adopted in 2005. Because of this, ODE did not initially allow the KRA-L to be used for the purpose of the Third-Grade Reading Guarantee.

After further consideration and feedback from stakeholders, ODE will **now** allow schools to use the KRA-L for the Third-Grade Reading Guarantee only in the 2012-2013 school year. Ohio is currently in the process of revising its early learning and development standards for children which will include end of preschool standards aligned to the common core state standards. These standards are expected to be adopted by the State Board of Education in October 2012. For the 2013-2014 school year, ODE will have a new diagnostic assessment for kindergarten based on these new standards.

Schools wishing to use the KRA-L must still meet the requirements of the Third-Grade Reading Guarantee. This includes administering the assessment by September 30, 2012. Students who receive a KRA-L score that falls in Band 1, which indicates “Assess broadly for intense instruction”, should be considered and reported as *not on-track*. Students scoring above this range will be considered *on-track*.

More guidance on the KRA-L and the Third-Grade Reading Guarantee can be found on ODE’s [website](#). These resources will continue to be updated as new information becomes available. The expanded assessment options for the Third-Grade Reading Guarantee in the 2012-2013 school year are outlined on the following page.

For the 2012-2013 School Year	
Grade Level	Diagnostic Test Options to meet the September 30 Deadline
Kindergarten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kindergarten Readiness Assessment – Literacy (KRA-L) • ODE Grade K Short Screener • Comparable Tool <i>selected by district for 2012-2013 only</i>
Grade 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODE Grade K Screening Measure or Grade 1 Short Screener • Comparable Tool <i>selected by district for 2012-2013 only</i>
Grade 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODE Grade 1 Screening Measure or Grade 2 Short Screener • Comparable Tool <i>selected by district for 2012-2013 only</i>
Grade 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODE Grade 2 Screening Measure • Comparable Tool <i>selected by district for 2012-2013 only</i>
Guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For 2012-2013, districts can administer the previous year’s screening measure to K-3 students, the current grade-level short screener or a comparable tool selected by the district. • The previous year’s screening measure addresses the end of year expectations of the previous year’s standards; the current grade-level short screener addresses end-of-year expectations of the current grade level and determines whether students are already performing at current grade-level. • <i>On track</i> in September means students are at grade level in reading for the previous academic year because students have not received sufficient instruction and exposure to current grade level content by September. • If districts choose to administer both the previous year’s screening measure and current grade level short screener measure, districts should take the higher of the two to determine <i>on track</i> status. • The comparative tool is determined by the school district for the 2012-2013 school year only. • ODE is developing a new diagnostic screening measure for all grades K-3 for use in 2013-2014. 	

For the 2013-2014 School Year	
Grade Level	Diagnostic Test Options to meet the September 30 Deadline
Kindergarten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODE K Screening Measure <small>(Districts may continue to use the KRAL through this school year - 2013-2014)</small> • Comparable Tool <i>from ODE approved list</i>
Grade 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODE Grade 1 Screening Measure • Comparable Tool <i>from ODE approved list</i>
Grade 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODE Grade 2 Screening Measure • Comparable Tool <i>from ODE approved list</i>
Grade 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODE Grade 3 Screening Measure • Comparable Tool <i>from ODE approved list</i>
Guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODE will develop a new diagnostic screening measure for all grades K-3 for use in 2013-2014 that will measure previous end-of-year expectations. For example, the ODE Grade 2 Screening Measure now measures the year-end expectations of Grade 1. • For the 2013-2014 school year and thereafter, comparative tools selected by district must appear on the ODE-approved list. 	