

## 2012-2013 Diagnostic Guidelines

### Aug. 23, 2012

Recent legislation has changed the way diagnostic assessments are administered and scored. For the first time, districts and community schools will report the results of each student's diagnostic assessments. The new Third-Grade Reading Guarantee will change when and which reading diagnostic assessments are administered. The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) created this document to help administrators navigate these changes.

In addition to these guidelines, please contact ODE if you have a question on:

- **Diagnostic Assessments:** Paula Mahaley, [paula.mahaley@education.ohio.gov](mailto:paula.mahaley@education.ohio.gov)
- **Third-Grade Reading Guarantee:** [thirdgradeguarantee@education.ohio.gov](mailto:thirdgradeguarantee@education.ohio.gov)

Visit ODE's website for more information and resources on:

- [Diagnostic Assessments](#)
- [The Third-Grade Reading Guarantee](#)

#### **Key Points for the English language arts (ELA) Diagnostics:**

- State law requires that ODE's ELA diagnostic assessment be given at some point each year to students in first and second grade (ORC 3301.0715(C)).
  - The ODE ELA diagnostic assessment is the reading and writing diagnostic assessments combined.
- However, the Third-Grade Reading Guarantee (ORC 3313.608(B)(1)) requires all public school districts and community schools to administer an ELA diagnostic to all students in grades K-3 by September 30 each year, starting in the 2012-2013 school year.
  - Districts can use ODE's reading diagnostic for the September 30 deadline.
  - To meet the Third-Grade Reading Guarantee deadline, ODE is allowing districts and schools to use any reading diagnostic measure they deem appropriate for the 2012-2013 school year.
- The tables on the following page show the diagnostic assessments required by the Third-Grade Reading Guarantee by grade level for the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 school year.
- The ODE-developed diagnostics identify students as *on-track* and *not on-track*.
  - *On-track* means any student who is reading at grade level, based on previous end-of-year standards expectations by September 30.
  - *Not on-track* means any student who is not reading at grade level, based on previous end-of-year standards expectations by September 30.

<b><i>For the 2012-2013 School Year</i></b>	
<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Diagnostic Test Options to meet the September 30 Deadline</b>
<b>Kindergarten</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ODE Grade K Short Screener</li> <li>• Comparable Tool <i>selected by district for 2012-2013 only</i></li> </ul>
<b>Grade 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ODE Grade K Screening Measure or Grade 1 Short Screener</li> <li>• Comparable Tool <i>selected by district for 2012-2013 only</i></li> </ul>
<b>Grade 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ODE Grade 1 Screening Measure or Grade 2 Short Screener</li> <li>• Comparable Tool <i>selected by district for 2012-2013 only</i></li> </ul>
<b>Grade 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ODE Grade 2 Screening Measure</li> <li>• Comparable Tool <i>selected by district for 2012-2013 only</i></li> </ul>
<b><u>Guidance:</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• <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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• The comparative tool is determined by the school district for the 2012-2013 school year only.</li> <li>• ODE is developing a new diagnostic screening measure for all grades K-3 for use in 2013-2014.</li> </ul>	

<b><i>For the 2013-2014 School Year</i></b>	
<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Diagnostic Test Options to meet the September 30</b>
<b>Kindergarten</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ODE K Screening Measure</li> <li>• Comparable Tool <i>from ODE approved list</i></li> </ul>
<b>Grade 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ODE Grade 1 Screening Measure</li> <li>• Comparable Tool <i>from ODE approved list</i></li> </ul>
<b>Grade 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ODE Grade 2 Screening Measure</li> <li>• Comparable Tool <i>from ODE approved list</i></li> </ul>
<b>Grade 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ODE Grade 3 Screening Measure</li> <li>• Comparable Tool <i>from ODE approved list</i></li> </ul>
<b><u>Guidance:</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• For the 2013-2014 school year and thereafter, comparative tools selected by district must appear on the ODE-approved list.</li> </ul>	

- ODE recently posted the revised diagnostics on its [website](#):

- ODE's diagnostics have descriptors for *on-track* and *not on-track* and can be used by districts to inform decision making.
  - The results of vendor assessments used by districts as a comparable tool should be translated to the *on-track* or *not on-track* designations, based on the vendor's results description and ODE's definitions of *on-track* and *not on-track*.
  - There will be no special guidance provided by ODE on translating the vendor diagnostic results into the *on-track* and *not on-track* categories.
- Many schools have opted to use the reading and writing diagnostics provided by ODE. Here are some points to consider for the 2012-13 school year:
  - Currently, there is no Grade 3 reading diagnostic assessment developed by ODE for the 2012-2013 school year. Schools may choose a vendor diagnostic tool to assess their third-grade students or use the ODE Grade 2 screening measure.
  - A Grade 3 reading diagnostic will be developed by ODE to be available for the 2013-14 school year.
  - The new diagnostic assessment in 2013-2014 will measure the student's performance against the previous year-end expectations.
- If a school uses a reading diagnostic for the Third-Grade Reading Guarantee, including ODE's reading diagnostic, it must administer the ODE writing diagnostic at some point during year to fulfill the ELA testing requirement.
- If a school uses a vendor ELA diagnostic assessment for the Third Grade Reading Guarantee by September 30, the testing requirement for ELA (reading and writing combined) is fulfilled for the year.
  - If the ELA assessment reports separate reading and writing scores, only the reading portion of the diagnostic should be used for determining if a student is *on-track* or *not on-track*.
- Many schools have inquired about using a specific vendor diagnostic assessment for the Third-Grade Reading Guarantee. For the 2012-2013 school year, districts may use any appropriate diagnostic to assess their students. In September, an ODE survey will collect information and data concerning diagnostic tools used. ODE will use the information collected to compile a list of approved comparable reading diagnostics for the 2013-2014 school year.
  - Teacher evaluation tools (i.e., multiple measures of student growth) cannot be used for the diagnostics required for the Third-Grade Reading Guarantee.
- Districts may use one type of vendor diagnostic assessment for one grade level and another type of vendor or ODE-developed diagnostic assessment for another grade level.
- The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment – Literacy (KRA-L) is required to be administered to all kindergarten students. The KRA-L is a separate assessment from the diagnostics and cannot be administered as the reading or ELA diagnostic assessment for kindergarten students under the Third-Grade Reading Guarantee. Districts will be required to submit both KRA-L and diagnostics results through EMIS. These results will be submitted at the end of the school year.

- ODE is not providing the diagnostic kits for districts and community schools. The diagnostic assessments are posted on the ODE [website](#). Districts and community schools that choose to use ODE diagnostics must print the diagnostics and use the manipulatives provided in the kits distributed by ODE when the diagnostics were first developed in 2004.
  - Districts and community schools that have added new buildings or new classrooms may request the diagnostic manipulatives by emailing Paula Mahaley at [paula.mahaley@education.ohio.gov](mailto:paula.mahaley@education.ohio.gov).
  - Recently opened community schools also may request the manipulatives.
- Definitions of *on-track* and *not on-track* for ODE diagnostic assessments are available on ODE's [website](#).
  - It will be up to the districts to make the final determination if a student is *on-track* or *not on-track*.
- Districts will report diagnostic assessment results through the EMIS year-end collection.
  - For the Third-Grade Reading Guarantee, districts will report only:
    - Which students are *on-track* and *not-on-track* for reading; and
    - What types of intervention services are given to each student.
  - For the Third-Grade Reading Guarantee, districts should maintain the *on-track* and *not on-track* results so that they can be reported at the end of the school year.
  - The reading diagnostic results are not required to be submitted or posted by Sept. 30, 2012.
- Districts will report either the ELA results or a reading and writing results.
  - If the district uses a vendor ELA assessment, then the district will report the ELA *on-track* or *not on-track* results only.
  - If the district uses a reading and writing diagnostic assessment, then it will give results for both assessments.

### **Key Points for the Mathematics Diagnostics:**

- A math diagnostic assessment may be given anytime during the year.
- All districts and community schools must use ODE's math diagnostic assessment posted on [ODE's website](#).
- All districts that met AYP in the 2011-2012 school year have the choice to use a math and/or writing diagnostic assessment other than ODE's assessment.
- To use a non-ODE assessment, districts must submit a special Innovation Education Pilot Program application that will be released in September.
  - This application must be submitted by December 31, 2012, to receive flexibility for the 2012-2013 school year to use non-ODE writing and math diagnostic assessments.
  - If a district meets the basic requirements, it will be guaranteed approval.
  - This approval will be retroactive for districts that already have administered vendor diagnostics by the time the application is approved.

- The requirements for the Innovation Education Pilot Program application include:
  - The district must have met AYP in the 2011-2012 school year; and
  - The application must have the written support of the:
    - Local board president;
    - Superintendent; and
    - Teacher's employee representative if the district or community school employs teachers under a collective bargaining agreement.
- Districts will report the results (*on-track* or *not on-track*) for the math diagnostic assessment during the EMIS year-end collection, pending any other legislative changes.

**General Diagnostic Assessments Points:**

- Public districts and community schools must administer a mathematics and English language arts diagnostic assessment to all students in first and second grade (ORC 3301.0715)
- ODE's English language arts (ELA) diagnostic assessment is a combination of the posted reading and writing diagnostic assessments.
- Public districts and community schools must report their students' diagnostic results to ODE through the year-end EMIS collection.