



MEMORANDUM

TO: CSRC Members, Gayle Peay
FROM: Aza Baylor
CC: Andrea Bogie, Sarah Covington, Hadassah Muthoka
SUBJECT: DPI: Early Literacy Changes
DATE: May 24, 2024

This memo outlines Evident Change's proposed change to the Charter School Review Committee (CSRC) Early Literacy Requirements.

CURRENT EARLY LITERACY REQUIREMENTS

Following are the current Early Literacy expectations updated by the CSRC on May 24, 2023.

Tests required by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI):

1. Schools will administer the Star Early Literacy readiness assessment by Renaissance in compliance with DPI requirements to 1st- and 2nd-grade students in the spring of each year as required by the CSRC.
2. Schools will administer the Star Early Literacy readiness assessment by Renaissance or another reading readiness assessment to students in K4 and K5 in compliance with DPI requirements.

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE IN LITERACY ASSESSMENT DATA COLLECTION

Wisconsin Act 20 requires the following new early literacy assessment guidelines, intervention practices, and reporting beginning 2024–25 school year.¹

- 4K students must complete a fundamental skills screening assessment to evaluate phonemic awareness and letter sound knowledge **twice a year**: once in the first 45 days and once in the last 45 days of the academic year.
- K5–3rd graders must complete a universal screening assessment **three times per year**: once in the first 45 days of school, once mid-semester, and once in the last 45 days of school.
- Students scoring below the 25th percentile will be identified as “at risk” and must be administered a diagnostic assessment along with a personalized reading intervention plan. Progress must be monitored weekly; parents must sign the plan and schools are required to report progress after 10 weeks of intervention.
- Data from the reading screeners must be published in each school’s performance report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on Wisconsin Act 20 requirements, it is appropriate and necessary to monitor the new assessment requirements via data collection and reporting practices.

Evident Change recommends continued collection of reading readiness test data for K4–3rd graders to be included in the school’s annual programmatic report. Additionally, Evident Change should conduct an annual audit of reading intervention files during the spring of each school year to ensure compliance.

¹ Bender-Olson, K. (2023). *Wisconsin Legislative Council act memo: 2023 Wisconsin Act 20*.
<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2023/related/lcactmemo/act020>