



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

To: Superintendents and Principals

From: Melanie Hazelwood, Director of the Literacy Center

Date: March 28, 2025

Subject: Preferred Universal Screener - Beginning with the 2025-2026 School Year

[Indiana Code \(IC\) 20-35.5](#) requires schools to administer a universal screener to all kindergarten, first, and second grade students annually to identify students who may be “at some risk” or “at risk” for characteristics of dyslexia. This early identification of students who are not on track to be proficient readers allows for targeted support as early as possible. The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) is also required to publish a list of approved universal screeners, aligned with IC 20-35.5 and IC 20-32-5.1-17.

Additionally, starting with the 2025-2026 school year, [IC 20-32-5.1-17](#) requires IDOE to procure a preferred universal screener, which will be identified on the list of all approved screeners. IDOE invited all vendors on the current universal screener list to submit for consideration and convened multiple stakeholder groups to review materials and confirm alignment with evaluation criteria, including legislative requirements, foundational reading skills, data analysis guidance, and school support.

Acadience Reading K–6, formerly known as DIBELS NEXT has been selected as Indiana’s preferred universal screener. To best support schools and students in greatest need, schools in which fewer than 70% of students achieve a valid passing score on IREAD following the 2024 administration are required to utilize the preferred universal screener, as defined in IC 20-32-8.5-2. More information regarding guidance for implementation will be released in the coming months. Contact IDOE’s [Literacy Center](#) with additional questions.