



2026-2027 Universal Mathematics Screener for Grades K-2 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Building foundational mathematics skills early supports student success in future academic and career pathways. To strengthen this foundation, [Indiana Code \(IC\) 20-32-6.5-3](#) requires schools to provide targeted interventions for any student identified by universal mathematics screener data as being at risk of not meeting grade-level proficiency. Beginning with the 2026–2027 school year, all Indiana public, charter, and non-public schools must adopt and implement one of the two State Board of Education (SBOE)-approved universal mathematics screeners for kindergarten through grade two (as defined in [IC 20-32-6.5-2](#)). Schools may utilize Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant funds to cover the assessment, training, and professional development associated with their chosen screener vendor. Additional information will continue to be added to this FAQ as it becomes available.

Number	Question	Answer
1	Where can guidance about implementing the universal mathematics screeners and tiered interventions be found?	Comprehensive guidance to support implementation of the 2026–2027 mathematics legislation on universal mathematics screeners and tiered intervention can be found in the Universal Mathematics Screener Guidance for Kindergarten through Grade Two . Resources include an Individual Mathematics Plan template for documenting student needs, interventions, and progress, along with strategies for intensifying Tier I instruction . An editable Individual Math Plan is available in the resources section of the guidance.
2	Who is required to adopt the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) universal mathematics screener?	All Indiana public school corporations, charter schools, and accredited non-public schools (including Choice scholarship schools) serving students in kindergarten through grade two are required to adopt and implement one of the two SBOE-approved universal mathematics screeners. IC 20-32-6.5-2 states, “Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, each school shall administer to all students in kindergarten, grade 1, and grade 2 screeners approved by the department to identify students at risk of not meeting grade level proficiency.” Screeners are to be implemented in the 2026-2027 school year.
3	What universal mathematics screeners are approved for 2026-2027?	The two universal mathematics screeners approved for 2026-2027 are i-Ready Inform from Curriculum Associates and Universal Screeners for Number Sense (USNS) from Forefront Education.
4	Can a school choose a different universal mathematics screener than those approved by IDOE if	All schools, public, charter, and accredited non-public serving students in kindergarten, grade 1, and grade 2 must administer one of the two approved universal mathematics screeners approved by the department. Additionally, IC 20-32-6.5-3 requires that all

	they choose not to purchase the screener through formative funds?	students in kindergarten through grade 8 at risk of not achieving grade level proficiency based on the analysis of data from a grade level screener approved by the department (K-2) or through-year statewide assessment (3-8), must be provided with mathematics intervention.
5	Does the 75% requirement to use the preferred universal reading screener, Acadience, after three consecutive years also apply to the universal mathematics screeners?	No. IC 20-32-5.1-17 specifies that schools in which fewer than an average of 75% of students over three (3) consecutive years achieve a valid passing score on IREAD following the 2025 administration are required to use the preferred universal screener for reading. This requirement is specific to that statute and does not apply to IC 20-32-6.5-2 .
6	Are the universal mathematics screeners eligible for purchase through the formative assessment grant?	Yes. Both universal mathematics screeners can be purchased using formative assessment grant funds. Schools can use funds for one of the approved universal mathematics screeners. Schools utilizing USNS may use the grant to cover the cost of printing and/or laminating necessary administration materials. Schools may not use the formative assessment grant to purchase computers, headphones, or similar items. For more information on appropriate uses of the formative assessment grant, refer to the 2026-2027 Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant Guidance .
7	Where can I find vendor contact information?	- Curriculum Associates: CHoward@cainc.com or request a demo here. - Forefront Education: sales@forefront.education or request a demo here.
8	How are students defined “at risk” using the K-2 universal mathematics screeners?	Students are identified as “at risk” based on their performance on the K–2 universal mathematics screener, which serves as “first alert” of whether they meet, exceed, or are performing below grade-level expectations. IDOE has established the 40th National Percentile (NP) as the benchmark for identifying students who may be at risk of not meeting grade-level proficiency. Each assessment vendor will provide training to support educators in interpreting benchmark data and determining which students may require targeted intervention, enrichment, or acceleration. To support a more purposeful and adaptable identification of students in need of additional support, IDOE is introducing a new data-decision framework. This framework incorporates three data guideposts along with locally selected supplemental factors to assist schools in identifying students who may benefit from tiered mathematics intervention. This framework can also be used to identify students who meet or exceed grade-level expectations, allowing schools to provide appropriate enrichment or acceleration. Additional information about this framework and its implementation

		can be found in the Universal Mathematics Screener Guidance for Kindergarten through Grade Two document.
9	What is the cost for each screener, and are there different pricing tiers available?	Curriculum Associates' i-Ready Inform assessment costs \$8.25 per student, with discounts available by student volumes and site licenses. Forefront Education's USNS includes two plans– the Lite Plan for \$4.00 per student and the Basic Plan for \$6.00 per student. The free open-source USNS math screener may not be used as it does not meet Indiana's legislated requirements. Schools must purchase one of the two plans if choosing Forefront Education as their vendor for the universal mathematics screener. Corporations and schools are encouraged to reach out to Curriculum Associates and Forefront Education with questions on pricing.
10	How many times a year is the universal mathematics screener required to be administered?	Both universal mathematics screeners, USNS and i-Ready Inform, should be administered three times per year to support progress monitoring and evaluate the effectiveness of interventions. IC 20-32-6.5-2 requires an approved screener to receive a convincing or partially convincing rating for accuracy, reliability, and validity from either the National Center on Intensive Intervention or another third party approved by the department. To receive these ratings, the screener must be evaluated using evidence from all three administrations throughout the year. Both IDOE-approved screeners meet this legislative requirement and are intentionally designed for three-times-yearly administration, which reflects best practice for monitoring student progress.
11	When is the required parent notification within the first 15 days required to be provided?	IC 20-32-6.5-3 requires all schools to notify a parent within 15 days when a student is designated as at risk of not achieving grade-level proficiency. Schools should administer each assessment according to vendor-specified screener windows and review the data to identify students who are at risk. Within 15 days of making an “at risk” determination, schools must notify families using vendor-provided family letters and a copy of the completed Individual Mathematics Plan. This template will help educators track assessment data, document intervention strategies, and record additional relevant information. Documentation of the intervention services and progress monitoring information should be added to the student's plan and provided to families on a cadence determined by the corporation or school. IDOE will not publish a universal family/caregiver letter for mathematics screening. Contact your assessment vendor for example letters for families and caregivers. (See Chapter 2 of Indiana's Tiered System of Supports Toolkit for Mathematics for more information about data-based decisions and

		collaborative conversations. An editable version of the Individual Mathematics Plan template can be found here .)
12	Can the universal screeners be used as the high ability achievement assessment?	Schools are required to administer a universal mathematics screener to students in kindergarten through grade two, as well as high ability identification assessments (IC 511 IAC 6-9.1-2) to students in kindergarten <u>and</u> grade two. Results from the universal mathematics screener can be used both to define students who are at risk of not meeting grade-level proficiency and to prescreen students for high ability identification eligibility. To reduce unnecessary testing and ensure students engage in assessments that appropriately match their instructional needs, students in kindergarten or grade two (required high ability testing grades) who score at or above the 80th percentile on the first two administrations of the universal mathematics screener may be exempted from completing the final screener administration. Instead, these students should be assessed using a high ability approved achievement assessment, which provides a more accurate representation of advanced mathematical readiness. More recommendations on this process can be found in the Guidance for the Intersection of Universal Screening and High Ability Achievement Testing in Kindergarten through Grade Two and the Universal Mathematics Screener Guidance for Kindergarten through Grade Two.
13	Where can I find more information about each universal screener?	i-Ready Inform - Curriculum Associates • Using i-Ready Inform for K–2 Math Screening in Indiana • Preview Guidance: Universal Mathematics Screening with i-Ready • Informational Video: Indiana Math Screening with i-Ready Universal Screeners for Number Sense - Forefront Education • Overview of USNS (informational video and resources included) • USNS June Webinar Recording and Resources

For additional information, please email IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#).

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