

DIBELS Reading Assessment

With parent teacher conference on the horizon, I would like to discuss some of the common acronyms we use in education to help facilitate the conversations between parents and teachers. One of the most common term used during the conference is DIBELS which stands for Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills), which is a scientifically researched reading assessment given to Kindergarten through 6th grades to determine how well students read compared to national averages. The DIBELS test only takes a few minutes to administer and provides educators with the strengths and weaknesses for each student. Districts are required to administer the DIBELS assessment, based on Utah State Board Rule R277-403, to all K-3 students and report the results to the parents. Schools are required to give the DIBELS reading assessment at the beginning, middle and end of the year. The first assessment must be administered before September 30th with the second assessment between December 1st and January 31st; the third benchmark is given between the middle of April and the end of school. Alternative reading assessments can be administered in grades 4-12 and include the Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI) and the Star Reading assessment, which provide a reading level based on a Lexile Score. Classroom teachers will be discussing your student's reading levels with you and can provide suggestions to maintain or improve their literacy skills.

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