

January 7, 2014

To: Curriculum Directors
Elementary Literacy Specialists

Fr: Tiffany Hall, K-12 Literacy Coordinator
Kurt Farnsworth, Assessment Development Coordinator

Re: Indicators of student reading proficiency
Pursuant to 53A-1-606.6; R277-403; R277-404 2010 SB150
<http://www.rules.utah.gov/publicat/bulletin/2011/20110901/35164.htm>
And additional USOE guidelines and policies dated August 2012 at:
http://www.schools.utah.gov/assessment/Benchmark-Reading-Assessment/DIBELS_requirements_-2012_2013_Aug_2012.aspx

1. Basic Requirements: R277-403

1. LEAs shall report to parents or guardians of all children in grades 1, 2, and 3 after each benchmark assessment:
 - a. if the child is below grade level in reading at any point in the year,
 - b. reading interventions available at the school/district, and
 - c. activities in which the parent or guardian may engage to assist the student.
2. LEAs must provide reading remediation interventions to students identified as below grade level.
3. LEAs shall report to USOE:
 - a. the number of students reading below grade level after each benchmark assessment, and
 - b. the number of students identified as being below grade level who received reading intervention.

2. Common Assessment

By Board Rule, **EVERY** student in Grades 1, 2, and 3 will be given the *DIBELS® Next Composite* assessment (unless a waiver has been approved for an alternate assessment by the State Board of Education).

3. Use of Multiple Assessments

A student who performs at the “Below Benchmark” level on the DIBELS Composite measure **may** be given at least one other assessment to determine final On Grade Level determination. This should only be done on rare occasions for students **near** the “Benchmark Level.” LEAs may use valid and reliable assessments such as the *Benchmark Assessment System, DAR, DRA, TPRI, Aimsweb, PALS, Reading Mastery*, etc. LEAs are responsible for maintaining records and evidence as appropriate for the multiple assessment.

4. Data Reported to the Utah State Office of Education

1. By October 31, February 28, and June 30, LEAs must report through the SIS system:
 - a. If a student is at grade level or not (Y or N).
 - b. If a student received interventions (Y or N).
 - c. If a student was untested (rare circumstances where a student was absent or unable to take the test during the testing window).

4. “Grade Level” and DIBELS® Next Composite Designation

If the composite score is:	Grade Level	Report
At or Above Benchmark	At or above Grade Level	Yes (Y)
Below Bench	Below Grade Level	Yes (Y)
	<i>(An additional measure may be performed if a student is near benchmark.)</i>	or
Well Below Benchmark	Below grade level	No (N) accordingly
		No (N)