

Required K-3 Universal Reading Screening Windows 2026-27

The K-3 Universal Screening administration windows have been updated for the 2026-27 school year. These windows are outlined in the table below.

K-3 URS Administration Windows

Statewide Screening Window	Window Administration Dates	Due Data for Accurate Data Submission
Fall	August 3 – September 18	October 9
Winter	December 1 – January 22	February 12
Spring	March 16 – May 11	May 25

The department's overall statewide windows may have different start and end dates than the district's selected screener's testing windows for the availability of national norms. Districts **MUST** select a testing period that aligns with **both** the department's window **and** their selected screener's available national norms and ensures at least 12 weeks of instruction between screenings (Fall to Winter and Winter to Spring).

Re-testing using a screener multiple times is discouraged. Students should take screeners once per screening window unless there are unusual circumstances. This is to allow students sufficient time between screeners to make and demonstrate progress. If some students do re-test during the same testing window, all URS platforms utilized in Tennessee will save the student's most recent URS score for reporting.

Administration Expectations

Regardless of your district's choice of state board-approved universal reading screener, districts must administer all K-3 universal reading screening measures within the department's 2026-27 windows:

- Districts must select a testing period that aligns with both the

- department's window and their selected screener's available national normative window for each administration window. Districts should refer to the vendor for vendor specific normative windows.
- District selected administrations windows should ensure at least 12 weeks of instruction between screenings (Fall to Winter and Winter to Spring).
 - Districts will be accountable for these requirements when submitting their data during the 2026-27 school year.
 - Any data submitted outside of the overall statewide screening window will not be counted in compliant data submissions.
 - The department suggests collecting reading screening data within a short, two-week window so that within-district data comparisons are fair.
 - Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) URS administration must meet the same expectations when Pre-K URS data is utilized for Alternative Growth Measures (AGM) purposes.
 - See [URS Administration Guidelines](#) for more information regarding the administration of the URS for Pre-K – Grade 3.

District testing plans should include adequate make-up opportunities and procedures for all students. Students who arrive after the windows, or who are absent or unable to be tested during the windows, should be tested as quickly as possible after arrival, assuming national norms for a given window are still available and accurate.