

Universal Reading Screener Guidance

Pre-K Alternate Growth Score

The Tennessee Literacy Success Act, codified at T.C.A. § 49-1-901 et. seq., allows for districts and public charter schools to use a state-board approved Universal Reading Screener as an approved alternative growth measure for Pre-K -2 teachers.

A list of state board approved screeners can be found [here](#). The law also allows school districts to use the results of the Tennessee Universal Reading Screener (TN-URS) or another universal reading screener with appropriate grade level norms, approved by the state board of education, as an alternative growth measure for Pre-K-2 teachers. (See [URS Alternate Growth Guidance.pdf \(tn.gov\)](#)).

Universal reading screeners are normative measures. When evaluating screener data for growth measures, a different approach must be taken because screeners are normative assessments not criterion referenced assessments, such as the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP). As such, they are not designed to assess mastery of standards; students do not pass or fail normative assessments. Students receive a score that compares them to other students who have also taken the assessment.

Use of Universal Reading Screener for Pre-K

The Tennessee Literacy Success Act allows for a district to use any of the state board approved normative universal reading screeners for Pre-K-2 as an alternative growth score.

Within the state board approved screeners, three providers have a Pre-K option: FastBridge earlyReading, Star Early Literacy, and TN-URS (Pearson aimswebPlus). Districts may choose any of these options for alternative growth measures. Pearson aimswebPlus allows for rostering of Pre-K students and is currently developing Pre-K national norms that will be available for the 25-26 school year. For the current school year, Pearson is calculating norms for Tennessee data to support the calculation of AGM for LEAs utilizing the TN-URS as their Pre-K screening tool.

Pre-K subtests in aimswebPlus that must be administered in at least the Fall and Spring to produce a composite score are Print Concepts, Initial Sounds, and Auditory Vocabulary.

Student Growth Portfolio

The Pre-K Quality Act allows a student growth portfolio to be included for all Pre-K and K teachers that are in a district receiving a Voluntary Pre-K grant. Therefore, districts can continue to use student growth portfolio to generate a growth score for Pre-K-2 teachers. Portfolios, which focus on skills-based mastery, are an approach to standards selection. There exists clear alignment between grade level standards and student expectations and an increased focus on foundational reading skills. Portfolios have embedded tasks to give clear expectations of student performance of the standard. For more information about the Pre-K portfolio, please email portfolio.questions@tn.gov.

For information implementing an approved universal reading screener with Pre-K students, please email tn.universalscreener@tn.gov.