

**Universal Student Screeners and State Adopted Benchmark Assessments  
Emergency Rule 0520-01-03-.15**

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**The Background:**

Pursuant to Chapter 3 of the Public Acts of 2021 (1<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary Session), the State Board of Education is authorized to promulgate emergency rules to implement the Tennessee Literacy Success Act.

The Literacy Success Act of 2021 requires LEAs and public charter schools to annually administer a universal reading screener to each student in kindergarten through grade three (K-3) during each of the three (3) administration windows established by the Department. This emergency rule describes various requirements related to universal screeners, including how universal screeners are used to identify students who have a significant reading deficiency, and the process for LEAs and public charter schools to request permission from the State Board to use locally chosen universal screeners. This emergency rule is needed because LEAs and public charter schools must identify universal reading screeners in their foundational literacy skills plans, which are due on June 1<sup>st</sup> of 2021, and must begin administering universal screeners during the 2021-22 school year to identify students with significant reading deficiencies.

**The Fiscal Analysis Impact:**

T.C.A. § 49-1-212 requires that the Department prepare a fiscal analysis of any policy, rule, or regulation proposed to the State Board of Education. This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

**The Recommendation:**

The Department of Education recommends approval of this item on first and final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.