

## **Guidance Document for Additional Information on Universal Screeners**

### **Ensuring all Six Subsets are Screened:**

When selecting universal, Level I, and Level II screeners it is required to have chosen screeners that cover ALL SIX subsets. Several approved screeners cover multiple subsets, but do not cover all six subsets. You may need to give multiple screeners to cover all six subsets! Please use the universal screener planning document and universal screener breakdown document to ensure that the screeners you have selected cover all six subsets.

### **Suggestions for Cut Score:**

The Indiana Department of Education does not decide cut scores. This is a local control decision. Please contact the screener publisher for more information on possible cut scores.

### **Sharing a Student's Screener Scores Between Schools:**

Indiana Code states that students in grades kindergarten, first, and second shall be screened in all six subsets each academic year regardless of previous years' performance.

Schools shall ensure that each student is screened each academic year. If a student transfers school districts or charter schools within the state of Indiana it is best practice and professional courtesy to share the student's universal screener scores with the student's new school as part of the student information.

- Please note that schools have the local control to decide when during the academic year the universal screener shall be given. If a school does not receive universal screening data then the school must give the universal screener.
- Schools may choose to honor the previous school's screener data or choose to screen all new students based on their screening schedule and chosen universal screener.

### **Screening Students in Grade Third Through Twelfth Grade:**

Indiana Code states that if the teacher of a third through twelfth grade student notices a significant deficit that the student may be referred for a universal screener. Schools may have parents that ask the school to screen their child for the characteristics of dyslexia via the universal screener. It is important to express to parents that schools are not diagnosing dyslexia. Schools have the local control to decide if they will give the universal screeners to students based on a parent request. Please talk to families about why they are requesting the school give the universal screener to their child.

The parental request to give the universal screener to students is separate from the education evaluation requirements for special education outlined in Article 7.

Since students in grades three through twelve may be screened, schools need to select screeners that screen the same six subsets screened in kindergarten, first, and second grade. Please note that schools must select an approved screener that covers the student's grade OR the school may give a screener that is outside the approved grade, but the school will use their local control to set their benchmarks to decide what is considered "at risk" and "at some risk."