

Universal Screener FAQ's

Updated December 2018

Question 1: What screeners can we use to screen for characteristics of dyslexia?

Answer: The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) has provided [lists of approved screeners](#) for universal, level I, and level II. IDOE vetted the screeners using a number of factors (for more information please refer to the [Criteria Used for Vetting and Approving Dyslexia Screener](#) and question seven of this FAQ for more information).

Question 2: What if my student passed all areas in kindergarten, are they required to be screened in first and second grade?

Answer: All students must be screened in kindergarten, first, and second grade annually regardless of previous year's performance.

Question 3: When should I screen my kindergarten, first, and second-grade students?

Answer: It is up to the school corporation or charter school when students are screened in each grade annually. It is recommended to screen students in each grade when the screener will give the schools quality data and it is developmentally appropriate.

Question 4: What universal screener results make a student "at some risk" or "at risk"?

Answer: Schools have the local control and discretion when addressing which students are considered "at some risk" or "at risk". Schools may choose to use a triangulation of all six (6) subsets, or if a student scores below the cut score on a number of subsets. IDOE encourages schools to consider the screener results data in addition to existing data and student's current classroom performance when planning the appropriate next steps.

Question 5: Do any of the universal screeners evaluate all six subsets required by Senate Enrolled Act 217 or will the schools need to use more than one screener?

Answer: There is no one single universal screener available that evaluates all six subset areas of SEA 217. A school will need to select at least two or more screeners. The [Universal Screener Skills Breakdown](#) spreadsheet contains a list of universal screeners and which subset areas they screen.

Question 6: Our school wants to use a screener that is not on the list. Is that allowed?

Answer: Schools are to only use screeners from IDOE's approved list. IDOE will be updating the list of approved screeners based on feedback from the field. If a screener is not on the IDOE approved list, a school corporation or charter school may ask IDOE to review the screener. The school must describe how the proposed screener meets the criteria listed on to the [Criteria Used for Vetting and Approving Dyslexia Screener](#) document. IDOE will then use the criteria and supplied evidence to decide if the screener is on the approved list. During the 2018-2019 school year, this list will be updated quarterly. The list of approved screeners will be updated annually after the start of the 2019-2020 school year.

Question 7: What criteria were used in selecting the approved screeners?

Answer: Each screener on the approved list was evaluated for its developmental appropriateness for students, its measurement of literacy subset (e.g., letter knowledge, sound-symbol recognition, etc), and scientific reliability and validity.

Question 8: What is the [Dyslexia Universal Screener Planning Worksheet](#) and how can schools use it to organize their selected screeners?

Answer: The [Dyslexia Universal Screener Planning Worksheet](#) provides a place for schools to lay out their plans for which screeners it will use to screen each of the six subset areas. In addition to the planning pages, examples of the complete tool are included.

Questions 9: Are any of the universal screeners offered at no cost?

Answer: The Arkansas Rapid Naming Screener is supplied by IDOE at no cost to schools. Schools are responsible for printing color copies of the screener from the available portable document format (.pdf) [link](#). You will need a copy of the answer sheet for each student in your class, but only one copy of directions, practice page, and form A and B. The screener must be printed in color to ensure the red and blue colors do not bleed and appear orange and purple on the page. In addition, schools should explore all IDOE approved screeners, as some are offered at a very low cost.

Question 10: What are some tips for choosing the most appropriate screeners for our school?

Answer: Choosing the right screener for your school corporation or charter school is a decision made at the local level. Factors to consider in the selection of screeners include the demographic make-up of your students, available staff, number of students to be screened, cost of the screeners, and training for staff. All screeners must come from IDOE's list of approved screeners.

Question 11: Are schools required to give the universal screeners to English language learners and special education students?

Answer: All students in grades kindergarten, grade one, and grade two will be given the approved universal screener. IDOE has issued draft guidance documents that provide information about the universal screening process for [English language Learners](#) and [special education students](#).

Question 12: What is the process used for implementing the dyslexia screening?

Answer: Please see the updated [Dyslexia Screener Flowchart](#) available on the screener page of the dyslexia website.