

# DIBELS® 8<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

**O** | UNIVERSITY OF OREGON | College of Education

## WHAT IS DIBELS 8<sup>TH</sup> EDITION?

DIBELS 8th Edition is a set of quick, one-minute reading assessments used in kindergarten through 8th grade.

Teachers use DIBELS for:

- Universal screening
- Benchmark assessments, three times per year
- Progress monitoring

DIBELS helps educators understand how students are doing in reading and whether they are on track to meet end-of-year expectations.

## WHY USE DIBELS?

DIBELS 8th Edition is based on decades of reading research and is designed to measure the most important skills students need to become successful readers. The assessments are reliable, efficient, and useful across more grade levels than ever before.

The main purpose of DIBELS is to help teachers:

- Identify students who may be at risk for reading difficulties
- Monitor student growth over time
- Use data to guide instruction and intervention

## UNDERSTANDING DIBELS SCORES

Each DIBELS benchmark assessment includes three cut-scores, which result in four performance levels:

- **BLUE - Negligible risk:** Students are on track for reading success and should continue to receive the instruction they are getting – sometimes called “Core Support” or “Above Benchmark.”
- **GREEN - Minimal risk:** Students are on track for reading success and should continue receiving the instruction that they are getting – sometimes called “Core Support” or “At Benchmark.”
- **YELLOW - Some risk:** Students may be struggling with one or more components of reading. They need additional instruction, usually in a small group setting. Their progress should be monitored in the area in which they are struggling. These students need “Strategic Support.”
- **RED - At risk:** Students are struggling with reading, either scoring well below the benchmark or struggling with more than one component. They need extra instruction in a small group or one-on-one setting. Their progress should be monitored in the areas in which they are struggling. These students need “Intensive Support.”

*These cut-scores make it easy for teachers to decide which students need intensive, strategic, or core instruction only.*



## ADVANTAGES OF DIBELS 8<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

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DIBELS 8th Edition offers a lot that no other curriculum-based measurement (CBM) system, including previous editions of DIBELS, has ever offered before. In fact, DIBELS 8<sup>th</sup> Edition is more useful for more students in more grades than ever before.

*The biggest advantages of DIBELS 8 are:*

- **Expanded grade levels** - DIBELS can be used from kindergarten through eighth grade.
- **Enhanced composite scores** - DIBELS composite scores have been overhauled to make them better than ever at predicting risk.
- **Consistent subtests within grade** - Subtests relevant to a given grade are offered at every benchmark period.
- **New and revised subtests** - DIBELS now includes *Word Reading Fluency*, and existing subtests have undergone extensive improvement efforts to maximize their usefulness.
- **Efficient benchmarking procedures** - Discontinue and Gating Rules for benchmarking save time and frustration.
- **Expanding the safety net** - DIBELS *Word Reading Fluency* measure can help identify students with poor sight word and irregular word reading skills that other subtests miss. *Maze* is now offered for second grade. *Nonsense Word Fluency* has been extended to third grade and includes advanced phonics patterns, and *Oral Reading Fluency* and *Maze* have been extended through eighth grade.
- **Expanding the utility** - DIBELS forms now have items that progress in difficulty beyond risk cut-points, providing data that teachers can use in planning instruction for all students.
- **Zones of Growth<sup>®</sup> for interpreting progress** - DIBELS offers Zones of Growth, available with the DIBELS Data System and Amplify's mCLASS, which were revised for the 8th Edition. They can be used to interpret all students' growth relative to a norming sample. (<https://amplify.com/support>)
- **Dyslexia screening** - DIBELS subtests offer efficient and cost-effective measures of processing speed, phonological awareness, and the alphabetic principle for dyslexia screening purposes. For more information, read our Dyslexia Screening and DIBELS 8th Edition White Paper located on the [Research](#) page of our website.



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One of the largest research centers at the University of Oregon (UO), The Center on Teaching and Learning (CTL) was established in 2000 as part of the College of Education. The College of Education at the UO is one of the highest-ranking graduate schools of education in the country. As part of the College of Education, CTL has contributed significantly to this ranking through its active [research projects](#), including DIBELS.



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