

# NC Read to Achieve Overview

*Welcome to Our NC Family Partners*



**Office of Early Learning**  
NC Department of  
Public Instruction

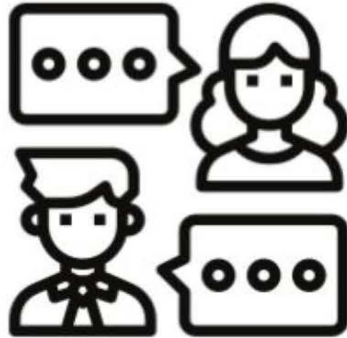
**One of the most important gifts we can give our children is to help them learn to read and write so that they can succeed in school and beyond.**

**Reading Rockets:**  
[Reading 101: A Guide for Parents](#)

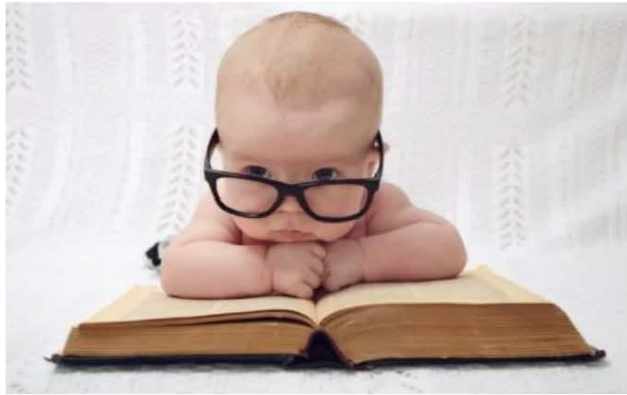


# True or False?

**Children learn to read,  
the same way they learn to talk.**



Infants learn to speak by listening to and repeating sounds made by adults and connecting them to meanings.



Children do not naturally develop reading skill through exposure to text.

# The Challenge of learning to read is not the same for everyone...



- Jan Hasbrouck, Ph.D.

# What is a Structured Literacy Approach?

- ★ Explicit, systematic teaching
- ★ Formal and informal assessments are used to develop and inform individualized student instruction
- ★ Applies current science of reading research



# I've heard about the Science of Reading, but what does it mean?



**Science of Reading** means evidence-based reading instruction practices that address the acquisition of language, phonological and phonemic awareness, phonics and spelling, fluency, vocabulary, oral language, and comprehension that can be differentiated to meet the needs of individual students.

SB 387 Part II

# What IS the Science of Reading?

- A body of research from multiple disciplines
- 1,000's of studies supported by hundreds of millions of research dollars
- Research based on
  - HOW we learn to read
  - What goes wrong when students don't learn
  - What kinds of instruction work best for most students



**Dr. Louisa Moats**





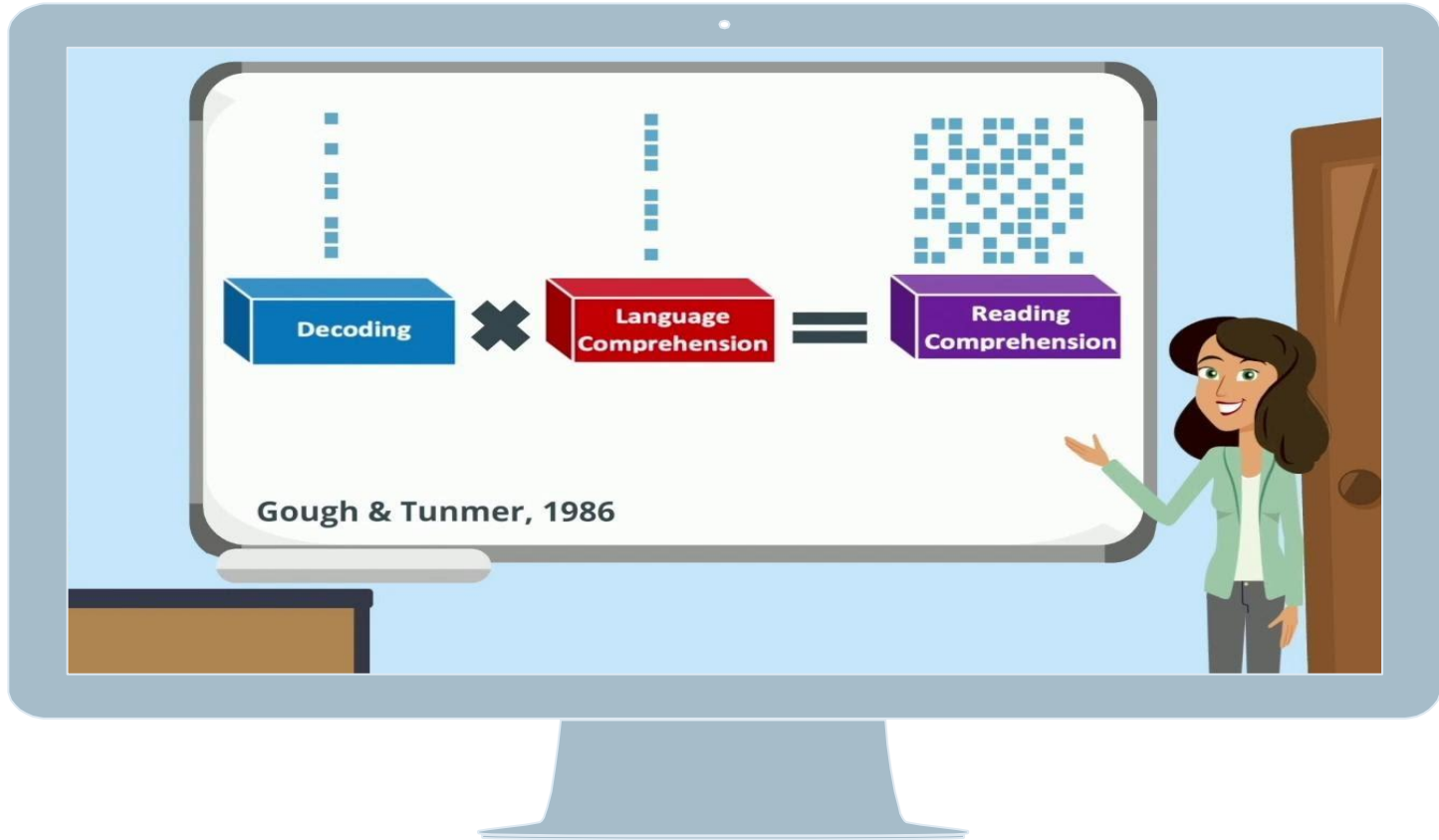
# What the Science of Reading is NOT?

- a program of instruction
- a one-size fits all approach
- a specific component of instruction
- a political agenda
- an ideology
- a philosophy

Dr. Louisa Moats



# Reading Model: Simple View of Reading



Gough & Tunmer, 1986

# Reading Model: Scarborough's Rope



# Why is my child assessed in reading?



## The goal of the state is to ensure:

- that every student read at or above grade level
- that students continue to progress in reading proficiency
- that students have the ability to read, comprehend, integrate and apply complex texts
- that students apply these these skills for secondary education and career success.



This legislation is part of the Excellent Public Schools Act and has been referred to as the North Carolina Read to Achieve Program

# Excellent Public Schools Act

- The Excellent Public Schools Act became law in July 2012 and was implemented in 2013-2014.
- During the summer of 2021, Senate Bill 387 was written to align literacy instruction with the Science of Reading and to modify the implementation of the NC Read to Achieve Program in order to attain statewide reading proficiency by the third grade.



This legislation is titled: Excellent Public Schools Act 2021

# A few key points of Read to Achieve legislation



- K, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade students shall be assessed with valid, reliable, formative and diagnostic reading assessments
- The reading assessment data will be used to identify root causes for difficulty with reading development and determine actions to address them.
- Parents will be notified if their child is not reading at grade level and possible retention or exemption for good cause. (Good cause exemption will be covered shortly.)
- Parents will be notified of retention and the reason their child is not eligible for a good cause exemption.
- Parents will be notified of a description or plan for reading interventions and supports.

## The Read to Achieve legislation states that the formative and diagnostic assessment shall address:

- oral language development
- phonological awareness
- phonics and decoding
- fluency
- vocabulary development
- reading comprehension skills and strategies

Amplify DIBELS 8 is North Carolina's selected K-3 literacy assessment

DIBELS 8 is an integrated literacy system based on the Science of Reading

Amplify.



## What is DIBELS<sup>®</sup> 8?



**Dynamic**  
**Indicators of**  
**Basic**  
**Early**  
**Literacy**  
**Skills**

*DIBELS<sup>®</sup> 8 is a standardized set of measures that help teachers and schools determine how students are performing on important reading skills*



# What skills are measured by DIBELS 8 and why are they important?



**These critical skills are necessary for successful beginning reading:**

- phonemic awareness
- phonics
- fluency
- vocabulary
- comprehension



**The measures include eight individual tests that focus on the big ideas and critical skills of beginning reading.**

- Letter naming fluency
- Phonemic segmentation fluency
- Nonsense Word Fluency
- Word reading fluency
- Oral Reading Fluency
- MAZE (Basic Comprehension)
- Oral Language
- Vocabulary

# Which assessment measures will be given to my child?



Each student will complete the measures depending on his or her grade level.



# DIBELS 8 assessment measures

## DIBELS measures at each grade level

Measure	Grade K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
Letter Naming Fluency	✓	✓		
Phonemic Segmentation Fluency	✓	✓		
Nonsense Word Fluency	✓	✓	✓	✓
Word Reading Fluency	✓	✓	✓	✓
Oral Reading Fluency		✓	✓	✓
Maze (Basic Comprehension)			✓	✓

## Required additional measures at each grade level below

Oral Language	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vocabulary	✓	✓	✓	✓

# How often are students assessed?



Beginning  
of the Year

Middle  
of the Year

End  
of the Year

**School-wide Testing is Called  
“Benchmark Assessment”**



# How will the assessment results be used?



## Analyzing assessment data will:

- enable teachers to plan day to day instruction to meet individual student needs
- identify specific areas for improvement for all students
- identify students at risk



# How will I be informed of my child's performance on DIBELS 8?



**Amplify** offers:

**mCLASS<sup>®</sup> Home Connect<sup>®</sup> website**

**mCLASS<sup>®</sup> Home Connect<sup>®</sup> letters:**

- will be sent home after each benchmark assessment
- contain results from Benchmark assessments completed during the current time of year for DIBELS 8
- contain a description of measure overviews and skills review
- activities to do at home to help develop skills.



# What will I see on the Home Connect<sup>®</sup> letters?



Skills display on progress bars which indicate your child's performance on each measure.

## What are the skills Traci should learn to become a good reader?



### Phonemic Awareness

Hearing and using sounds in spoken words

*We no longer measure Traci's phonemic awareness because students should have this skill by the middle of first grade.*



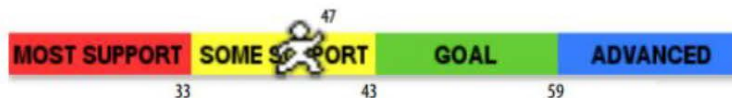
### Phonics

Knowing sounds of letters and sounding out written words, measured by DIBELS Next Nonsense Word Fluency (NWF)

Can your child...

...sound out simple words like van? (vvv...aah...nnn)

...easily read a list of two- and three-letter words?



Reading letter sounds (NWF-Correct Letter Sounds)



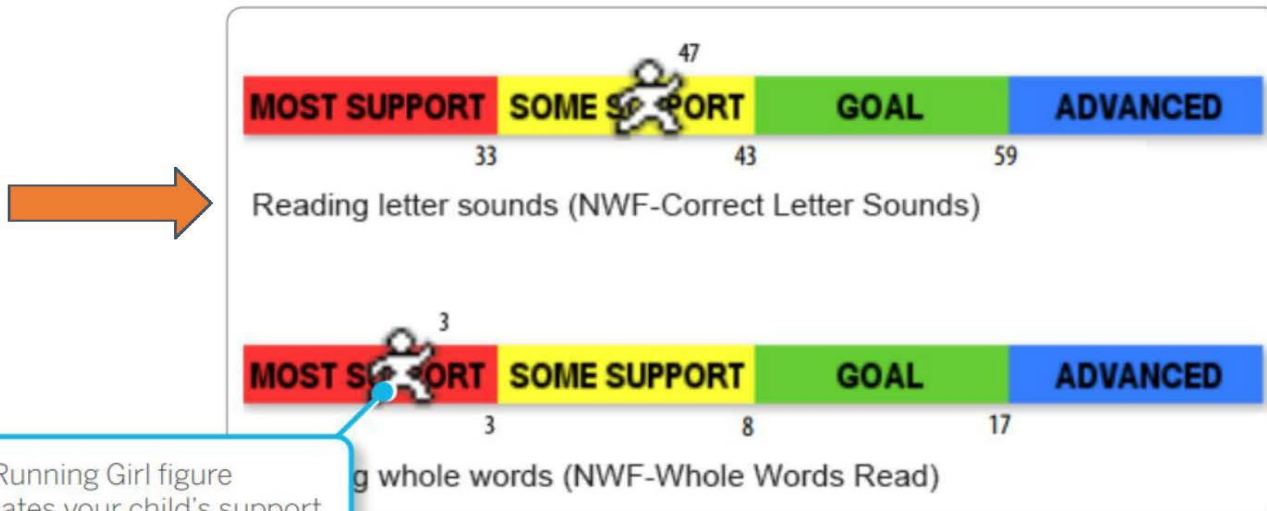
Reading whole words (NWF-Whole Words Read)



# What will I see on the Home Connect<sup>®</sup> letters?







The skill being measured displays beneath each bar.  
Use this information to help choose practice activities for your child on mCLASS<sup>®</sup> Home Connect<sup>®</sup> website.



The Running Girl figure indicates your child's support category and score.



# Benchmark Categories

Status	Level	Likely to be performing at grade level at end of year?	Support Level
	Above Benchmark	<b>Yes; negligible risk (90% or higher chance of meeting goal)</b>	<b>core</b>
	At Benchmark	<b>Yes; minimal risk (80% or higher chance of meeting goal)</b>	<b>core</b>
	Below Benchmark	<b>No; some risk (20% or higher chance of meeting goal)</b>	<b>strategic</b>
	Well Below Benchmark	<b>No; at risk (less than 20% chance of meeting goal)</b>	<b>intensive</b>



# Home Connect<sup>®</sup> letters 2nd page

Traci Caldwell 2nd Grade, Beginning-of-Year Assessment

## Activities for Traci

Even if you have just a few minutes each day, you may be surprised by how much you can help Traci learn to read. Here are some activities we recommend based on Traci's most recent mCLASS reading assessment. Most of these activities can be done just about anywhere. Feel free to change them a bit to match Traci's interests or to fit your schedule.



## Where Traci needs support



### Phonics

Knowing sounds of letters and sounding out written words

#### Beginning Sounds

Say, "Let's think of some words that start with the same sound. I'll say the first ones and we'll see if you can think of a color word that starts with the same sound." Say, "Pig, penguin, porcupine..." Ask your child to repeat your words before supplying another one. Then ask, "What sound do these words start with?" (Your child should say the sound *p*.) You may have to exaggerate the beginning sounds until your child gets the idea. Then ask, "What is a color word that begins with the same sound?" (pink, purple) Repeat with other beginning sounds.

#### Start a Journal

Explain what a journal is and give examples of what types of things your child might write about, such as making a new friend, going someplace special, or experiencing something exciting at school. Provide an example by writing about your day. Ask your child to write about his or her day on the next page.



# How can I use the mCLASS<sup>®</sup> Home Connect<sup>®</sup> website?







<https://mclass.amplify.com/homeconnect/>



mCLASS<sup>®</sup> Home Connect<sup>®</sup> En Español

This site provides resources for families to practice and reinforce important literacy skills with their children who are being assessed with mCLASS reading assessments. For more information on how to navigate this site, [click here](#).

 Phonological Awareness 9 activities	 Phonics 13 activities	 Accurate and Fluent Reading 42 activities	 Reading Comprehension 73 activities
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Click below for written instructions on [How To: Use mCLASS<sup>®</sup> Home Connect<sup>®</sup>](#)

[https://mclass.amplify.com/support\\_center/mCLASS\\_DN\\_HC\\_Site.pdf](https://mclass.amplify.com/support_center/mCLASS_DN_HC_Site.pdf)

## How do I know if my child meets third grade benchmarks?



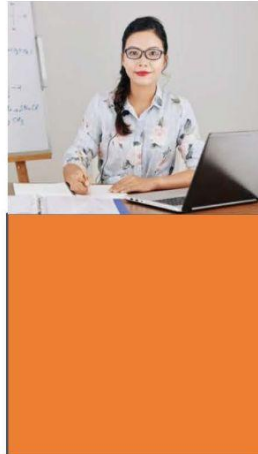
DIBELS 8 generates a composite score from four sub skills in order to determine a student's Lexile score. A 725 Lexile score meets third grade proficiency.



Additionally, third graders' reading proficiency will be measured by the standardized test of reading comprehension on the End of Grade (EOG) assessment.

**BOG and EOG require a Level 3 score.**

# How does this all link together?



# What if my child does not show reading proficiency?



**There are several opportunities to demonstrate third grade reading proficiency.**

# Can my child be exempt from mandatory retention in third grade?



<b>Good Cause Exemptions</b>	<b>Student Reading Portfolio</b>	<b>Children with Disabilities</b> Students with disabilities whose individualized education program indicates (i) the use of the NCEXTEND1 alternate assessment, (ii) at least a two school year delay in educational performance, or (iii) receipt of intensive reading literacy interventions for at least two school years.	<b>Alternative Assessment</b>
	<b>Multiple Retentions and Interventions</b> Students: (i) received reading intervention and (ii) previously been retained more than once in K, 1st, 2nd or 3rd grade.	<b>Limited English Proficient Students</b> Students with less than two years of instruction in an English as a Second Language program.	

# I've heard about reading camp. Will my child need to go?



Reading Camp is:

- offered by your child's school district for students who are not proficient on the 3rd grade EOG.
- designed to provide additional instruction in 3rd grade reading.
- free - no cost to parents.
- not mandatory, but strongly encouraged.





# What does a reading retained label mean for my child?



- **Retained in 3rd Grade**  
Third grade standards and curriculum, 3rd grade EOG
- **Placed in 3rd/4th Transition Class with Retained Reading Label**  
Fourth grade standards and curriculum, 4th grade EOG
- **Placed in 4th Grade Accelerated Reading Class with Retained Reading label** - 4th grade standards and curriculum, 4th grade EOG

# Where can I find more information?



## NCDPI Grade 3 RTA Website



## Early Literacy Website



## NC DPI Literacy at Home Website



Where can I find a quick overview of RtA?



## NC Read to Achieve Infographic



**NC READ TO ACHIEVE**

READ - LEAD - SUCCEED  
LITERACY LITERACY

THE GOAL OF THE STATE IS TO ENSURE:

- EVERY STUDENT READ AT OR ABOVE GRADE LEVEL
- STUDENTS HAVE THE ABILITY TO READ, COMPREHEND, INTEGRATE & APPLY COMPLEX TEXTS
- STUDENTS APPLY THESE SKILLS FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION AND CAREER SUCCESS

SENATE BILL 387 ALIGNS LITERACY INSTRUCTION WITH THE SCIENCE OF READING AND MODIFYS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NC READ TO ACHIEVE PROGRAM.

**WHAT IS THE SCIENCE OF READING?**

Thousands of studies that reveal how we learn to read and write and the most effective ways to teach reading.

Research that guides teachers to most **EFFECTIVELY** and **EFFICIENTLY** teach ALL students to read.

**WHAT IS DIBELS 8?**  
Amplify DIBELS 8 is our statewide early literacy skills assessment for students in kindergarten through third grade.

The partnership  
between home  
and school  
ensures your  
child's success!



Thank you for  
joining us to  
learn more about  
Read to Achieve!