



Alberta Education has mandated screeners (assessments) for students in kindergarten to grade 3. Divisions across the province will administer a variety of screeners, depending upon the grade at scheduled times throughout the year. Universal screeners (assessments) measure a student's proficiency with foundation skills in both literacy and numeracy skills.

Types of Assessments and Grade:

- Kindergarten- Grade 1: **The Rapid Automated Naming (RAN) Digits** test requires naming digits as quickly as possible, thus revealing the automatic rate of many of the same cognitive and linguistic skills central to reading.
- Kindergarten- Grade 1: **The Phonological Awareness Screening Test (PAST)** purpose is to assess phonemic awareness. Phonological awareness, or the awareness of and ability to work with sounds in spoken language is foundational for decoding, blending, and word reading.
- Kindergarten- Grade 2: **Letter Name and Sound Test (LeNS)**, assesses knowledge of the names and sounds of letters, and common multi-letter graphemes (single letters or groupings of letters). The LeNS is designed to screen learners for foundational phonics skills to develop into independent readers.
- Grades 1-3: **The Castles and Coltheart Reading Test 3 (CC3)** is a word reading test of single word reading (decoding and whole word recognition). It is designed to identify the nature of reading difficulties and provides next steps for instruction and intervention.
- Kindergarten- Grade 3: **Provincial Numeracy Screening Assessments** look at knowledge of symbolic numbers. Results of the assessment can be used to help teachers identify and address gaps in foundational understanding of numbers.

Depending upon the grade, screening tools are administered in September, January and June (only students identified as AT RISK from January screen). For more specific details, please speak to your child's teacher.

Why are Assessments Needed?

Literacy and numeracy are important skills that develop during early childhood. Assessing learners in their early years:

- Provides essential information to teachers, schools, parents and Alberta Education about potential learning issues and needs.
- Ensures learners get the help they need early in their education.

- Monitors growth over time.
- Supports a transparent, accountable, and responsive education system.

Results of Assessments

Universal screeners do not replace day-to-day teacher observations and classroom assessment and do not have any impact on formal reporting processes such as report cards. Rather, the results of universal screeners help inform planning for next steps such as targeted interventions or instructional planning. They are not used to determine achievement indicators on a report card.

Teachers engage in ongoing communication with parents/legal guardians throughout the year. Teachers communicate information learned from universal screeners with families and how it might impact an individual's learning journey as appropriate. Together, they will support the learner's academic growth and determine a path forward.

There are several ways you can learn more about your child's learning, progress, and achievement. Please speak to your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns about their learning.