

Assess Your Assessment: 5 Criteria for Dyslexia Screening

With early screening, teachers can identify young students who are on track in their reading development and pinpoint those who are struggling due to learning difficulties like dyslexia. With this knowledge, they can apply interventions as early as preschool to keep skill deficits from growing into large achievement gaps.

Unfortunately, not all assessment systems include screening measures appropriate for identifying young students struggling with dyslexia or informing appropriate interventions. Does yours?

CRITERIA	My Current System	FAST
1 Brief Assessments should take 10 minutes or fewer to administer.		✓
2 Standardized Assessments should be administered and scored consistently to accurately compare performance among individuals or groups.		✓
3 Norm Referenced Assessments should compare a student's performance to the performance of his/her peers.		✓
4 Valid Assessments should focus on the specific skill areas affected by dyslexia, including phonemic awareness, letter naming and automaticity with sounds and words.		✓
5 Easy to Understand Assessments should make it easy for educators to quickly identify students who are struggling and their specific risk level.		✓

Can I Use FAST™ for Dyslexia Screening?

Included in every subscription of the Formative Assessment System for Teachers (FAST) are earlyReading™ and CBMReading™. Both meet the five criteria for effective dyslexia screening.

FAST earlyReading is designed to assess both unified and component skills associated with kindergarten and first grade reading achievement. It's intended to enable screening and progress monitoring across four domains of reading (Concepts of Print, Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, and Decoding), provide domain-specific assessments of these component skills, and offer a general estimate of overall reading achievement.

For students in grades 2 and above, **CBMreading** also can be used for dyslexia screening. If needed, teams can selectively use earlyReading subtests with these students as well, but the CBMreading score provides basic screening data.

FAST is an approved dyslexia screener in several states, including Missouri, Oregon, South Carolina, and Washington.