

2012-2013 Diagnostic Guidelines Updated **January 8, 2013**

Recent legislation has changed the way diagnostic assessments (**reading, mathematics and writing**) are administered and scored. For the first time, districts/community schools *will report the results* of each student's diagnostic assessments. The new Third Grade Reading Guarantee will change *when and which* reading diagnostic assessments are administered.

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) created this **Diagnostic** document to help administrators navigate these changes. **This guidance document outlines the minimum requirements of the revised law.** Districts/community schools are encouraged to do whatever is necessary above and beyond the law's minimum requirements to ensure their students are performing at grade level.

This guidance document will review details for the reading, mathematics and writing diagnostic assessments. To view the Diagnostic Assessments and Related Materials, please visit the ODE website:

- [Diagnostic Assessments](#)

For specific details on the Third Grade Reading Guarantee and additional resources for administrators, educators, and parents, please visit the ODE website:

- [The Third Grade Reading Guarantee](#)

In addition to these guidelines, please contact ODE if you have a question on:

- **Diagnostic Assessments:** Paula Mahaley, paula.mahaley@education.ohio.gov
- **Third Grade Reading Guarantee:** thirdgrade guarantee@education.ohio.gov

General information for all diagnostic assessments

- Districts/community schools are required to administer reading, mathematics and writing diagnostic assessments. The results of these diagnostic assessments must be reported to ODE through the end-of-year EMIS reporting system.
- Districts/community schools may use an ODE-developed or vendor diagnostic assessment for one grade level and/or subject, and a different vendor diagnostic assessment or ODE-developed diagnostic assessment for another grade level and/or subject. Please note that for a district/community school to choose to use a vendor diagnostic assessment for mathematics and/or writing in school year 2012-13, they must have an approved diagnostic flexibility waiver.

- ODE’s diagnostics have descriptors for *on-track* and *not on-track* and can be used by districts/community schools to inform decision making.
 - *On-track* means any student who is reading at grade level, based on previous end-of-year standards expectations by September 30.
 - *Not on-track* means any student who is not reading at grade level, based on previous end-of-year standards expectations by September 30.
- Definitions of *on-track* and *not on-track* for ODE diagnostic assessments are available on ODE’s [website](#).
 - It will be up to the districts/community schools to make the final determination if a student is *on-track* or *not on-track*.
- The results of vendor assessments used by districts/community schools as a comparable tool should be translated to the *on-track* or *not on-track* designations, based on the vendor’s results description and ODE’s definitions of *on-track* and *not on-track*.
- There will be no special guidance provided by ODE on translating the vendor diagnostic results into the *on-track* and *not on-track* categories.
- Districts/community schools must provide intervention to students who score at the *not on-track* level.
- If multiple diagnostic assessments in the same subject and grade level are administered, the first diagnostic assessment given to the student is the one used to determine if the student is *on-track* or *not on-track*. Subsequent diagnostic assessments may inform the student’s progress, but they will not be reported to ODE. Only the results of the first diagnostic assessment are reported to ODE at the end of the year.
- Districts/community schools will report:
 - Individual student results of *on-track* and *not-on-track*; and
 - For reading only, the types of intervention services given to each student.
- Districts/community schools should maintain the *on-track* and *not on-track* results for the reading, mathematics and writing diagnostic assessments so that they can be reported at the end of the school year.
- ODE is not providing the diagnostic kits for districts/community schools. The diagnostic assessments are posted on the ODE [website](#). Districts/community schools that choose to use ODE diagnostics must print the diagnostics posted on the ODE website and use the manipulatives provided in the kits distributed by ODE when the diagnostics were first developed in 2004.
 - Districts/community schools that have added new buildings or new classrooms may request the diagnostic manipulatives by emailing Paula Mahaley at paula.mahaley@education.ohio.gov.
 - Recently opened community schools also may request the manipulatives.
- All students enrolled in a chartered non-public school on a scholarship (Ed Choice, Cleveland Tutoring and Scholarship Program, Jon Peterson, and Autism) are not required to be administered a diagnostic assessment. Chartered non-public schools do not have to meet the requirements of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee.

READING Diagnostic Testing

- Starting in the 2012-13 school year, districts/community schools shall annually assess the reading skills of each student enrolled in kindergarten to third grade by the thirtieth day of September and shall identify students who are reading below their grade level per ORC 3313.608(B)(1).
- District boards of education must adopt board policies and procedures for annually assessing the reading skills of each student in grades K-3. These policies must specify that the diagnostic assessments for the Third Grade Reading Guarantee be given by September 30 each year, beginning in the 2012-13 school year. (ORC 3313.608(B)(1))
- Many schools have inquired about using a specific vendor diagnostic assessment for the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. To meet the Third Grade Reading Guarantee deadline of Sept. 30, ODE is allowing districts/community schools to use any reading diagnostic measure they deem appropriate for the 2012-2013 school year. The reading diagnostic for the 2012-2013 school year does not require ODE approval.
- Districts/community schools can use ODE's reading diagnostic or a vendor reading diagnostic assessment.
- Districts/community schools may use a school-developed assessment or a vendor assessment for the 2012-2013 school year. In this document, both school-developed and vendor assessments will be referred to as "vendor" assessments to simplify the guidance.
- In September 2012, an ODE survey collected information and data concerning diagnostic tools used by Ohio districts/community schools. ODE will use the information collected to determine which vendor diagnostic assessments will be placed on the list of approved, comparable reading diagnostic assessments for the 2013-2014 school year.
- ODE will have a list of comparable, approved reading diagnostic assessments available for the 2013-2014 school year that districts/community schools may choose in addition to the ODE-developed reading diagnostic assessment. For the 2013-2014 school year and thereafter, comparable tools selected by district must appear on the ODE-approved list.
- A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) has been posted on the ODE website for vendors to respond by naming their reading diagnostic assessments. The name of the RFQ is "*Comparable Assessments to Ohio's Diagnostic Assessment for the Third Grade Reading Guarantee*". The RFQ may be located at this link [RFQ](#).
 - The proposals submitted will indicate that the vendor diagnostic assessment meets the criteria as stated in the RFQ. Vendors should not call the ODE to ask to have their diagnostic assessment added to the list.

- Many schools have opted to use the reading diagnostics provided by ODE. Here are some points to consider for the **2012-2013** school year:
 - Districts/community schools/community schools may administer the previous year's screening measure to K-3 students, the current grade level short screener or a comparable tool selected by the district.
 - The previous year's *screening* measure addresses the end of year expectations of the previous year's standards; the current grade level short screener addresses end-of-year expectations of the current grade level and determines whether students are already performing at current grade level.
 - *On track* in September means students are at grade level in reading for the previous academic year because students have not received sufficient instruction and exposure to current grade level content by September.
 - Currently, there is no Grade 3 reading diagnostic assessment developed by ODE for the 2012-2013 school year. Schools may choose a vendor diagnostic tool to assess their third grade students or use the ODE Grade 2 screening measure.
- ODE is developing a new diagnostic assessment for all grades K-3 for use in **2013-2014** which will include a Grade 3 reading diagnostic assessment. There will be two formats available:
 - A screening which will measure previous end-of-year expectations.
 - A full-measure which will measure end-of-year expectations.
- If a school used a vendor ELA diagnostic assessment (reading and writing combined) for the Third Grade Reading Guarantee by September 30, the testing requirement for writing is fulfilled for the year.
- A student who scores at the not on-track level for the Sept. reading diagnostic assessment and starts receiving intervention, and then receives a proficient or above score (400 or above) on the fall grade 3 reading test, may stop receiving the intervention. A student who scores at the *not on-track* level for the Sept. reading diagnostic assessment and scores **below** proficient on the fall grade 3 reading test should continue receiving intervention.
- Districts/community schools will report either the ELA results, or reading and writing results.
 - If the district uses an ELA assessment, then the district will report the ELA *on-track* or *not on-track* results only.
 - If the district uses a reading and writing diagnostic assessment, then it will give results for both assessments.
- The Third Grade Reading Guarantee applies to all-day and half-day kindergarten students.
- The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment – Literacy (KRA-L) is required to be administered to all kindergarten students. The KRA-L may have been used for the assessment for the Third Grade Reading Guarantee prior to October 1, 2012. By Ohio law, it cannot be administered after October 1.
 - Students scoring in Band 1 should be considered *not on-track*.
 - Districts/community schools will be required to submit both KRA-L and diagnostics results through EMIS. These results will be submitted at the end of the school year.

- Teacher evaluation tools (i.e., multiple measures of student growth) **may** be used for the diagnostics required for the Third Grade Reading Guarantee **for the 2012-2013 school year only**.
- The reading diagnostic results are not required to be submitted by September 30, 2012.
- The tables on this page show the reading diagnostic assessments by grade level for the 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years that districts/community schools may use to meet the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. These charts do not apply to the mathematics and writing diagnostic assessment.

<i>For the 2012-2013 School Year</i>	
Grade Level	Reading Diagnostic Test Options to meet the September 30 Deadline
Kindergarten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODE Grade K Short Screener • Comparable Tool <i>selected by district for 2012-2013 only</i>
Grade 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODE Grade 1 Screening Measure or Grade 1 Short Screener • Comparable Tool <i>selected by district for 2012-2013 only</i>
Grade 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODE Grade 2 Screening Measure or Grade 2 Short Screener • Comparable Tool <i>selected by district for 2012-2013 only</i>
Grade 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODE Grade 3 Screening Measure • Comparable Tool <i>selected by district for 2012-2013 only</i>

<i>For the 2013-2014 School Year</i>	
Grade Level	Reading Diagnostic Test Options to meet the September 30 Deadline
Kindergarten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODE K Screening Measure • Comparable Tool <i>from ODE approved list</i>
Grade 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODE Grade 1 Screening Measure • Comparable Tool <i>from ODE approved list</i>
Grade 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODE Grade 2 Screening Measure • Comparable Tool <i>from ODE approved list</i>
Grade 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODE Grade 3 Screening Measure • Comparable Tool <i>from ODE approved list</i>

<i>For the 2014-2015 School Year</i>	
Grade Level	Reading Diagnostic Test Options for the September 30 Deadline
Kindergarten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODE Kindergarten Entry Assessment – reading portion • ODE Kindergarten Screening Measure • Comparable Tool <i>from ODE approved list</i>
Grade 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODE Grade 1 Screening Measure • Comparable Tool <i>from ODE approved list</i>
Grade 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODE Grade 2 Screening Measure • Comparable Tool <i>from ODE approved list</i>
Grade 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODE Grade 3 Screening Measure • Comparable Tool <i>from ODE approved list</i>

MATHEMATICS and WRITING Diagnostics

- State law requires that ODE's mathematics diagnostic assessment be given at some point each year to students in first and second grade per ORC 3301.0715 (A)(3).
- State law requires that ODE's writing diagnostic assessment be given at some point each year (if an ELA combined assessment was not given in Sept.) to students in first, second and third grade per ORC 3301.0715 (A)(3).
- All districts/community schools must use ODE's mathematics and writing diagnostic assessments posted on ODE's website.
- Districts/community schools may apply for a flexibility waiver to allow them to use a non-ODE diagnostic assessment for the 2012-2013 school year.
- Districts/community schools must submit by February 1, 2013 a special Innovation Education Pilot Program application that was posted on the ODE website at this link for the waiver:
<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?page=3&TopicRelationID=5&ContentID=129423&Content=137243>.
- The criteria that districts/community schools must meet to receive approval for the waiver are:
 - Met AYP in the 2011-2012 school year based on preliminary or final data released by ODE, and
 - The support and signature of the district's:
 - President of the Board of Education;
 - Superintendent; and
 - Teachers' Employee Representative (only if the district/community school has one).
- If a district meets the basic requirements, it will be guaranteed approval.
- This approval will be retroactive for districts/community schools that already have administered vendor diagnostic assessments by the time the application is approved, and have met the criteria for the waiver.
- If a district/community school administered a non-ODE mathematics and/or writing diagnostic assessment and it did not meet AYP, it must administer the ODE mathematics and/or writing diagnostic assessment.