



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Catherine Truitt, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

WWW.DPI.NC.GOV

June 24, 2021

To: Chief Academic Officers  
Read to Achieve Contacts

From: Amy Rhyne, Ed.S., Office of Early Learning Director

RE: **Amplify Assessment Guidance**

Thank you for your continued patience as we release information as soon as processes and decisions are finalized. As a friendly reminder, make sure you have completed the Amplify Assessment Materials Survey **by June 25**. Once we have final numbers we can move forward with our materials order. If we are missing district data, it delays the final order and shipment dates. Once orders are complete, it takes approximately 15 days to ship materials. If all surveys are complete, we will have the final order ready for Amplify before June 30. Districts returning to school in July will be our main priority for receiving materials first.

## **DIBELS 8th edition**

North Carolina continues to move forward with providing our youngest readers with research and evidence-based literacy instruction aligned with the Science of Reading. The state procurement process determined and approved Amplify as the vendor for the NC K-3 formative and diagnostic reading assessment. Amplify provides mCLASS, which uses DIBELS 8th Edition, as the assessment tool for all K-3 students enabling teachers to automate scoring and receive instant targeted instructional recommendations. mCLASS includes benchmark assessments and ongoing progress monitoring to comprehensively support each student's literacy development with foundational skills assessments, comprehension assessments, and dyslexia screening assessments.

DIBELS 8th Edition fulfills legislative requirements for K-3 students with sub test measures for:

- Phonemic awareness
- Phonics
- Fluency
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension

**For the above reasons, the state will begin using DIBELS 8 data for EVAAS purposes effective 21-22 from BOY-EOY for all K-2 teachers. Third grade will continue to use BOG-EOG for EVAAS.**

Please note the state is NOT using or receiving the Text Reading Comprehension (TRC) assessments for K-3 students beginning the 2021-2022 school year. DIBELS 8th Edition is a comprehensive assessment aligned to the science of reading. Six subtests are included within DIBELS 8th Edition and they are designed to assess component skills involved in reading. The subtests change across grades in a manner that parallels student development and instructional foci.

## **2021-2022 Benchmark Dates**

Recognizing that districts and schools' start dates range from the first week in July through the last week in August, it is essential that we use a formula for establishing benchmark assessment windows. Assessments are to be administered within 15 consecutive instructional days, not including holidays. BOY assessments are to be administered on days 6-21. MOY are to be administered on days 80-100. EOY assessments are to be administered days 155-170. Districts will be asked to submit testing windows to NCDPI and Amplify at a later date. See the reference chart on the next page.

### **OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING**

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## 2021-2022 Amplify Benchmark Assessment Windows

15 consecutive instructional school days (not including holidays)

If School Start Date is the Week of:		Beginning of Year (Days 6-21)	Middle of Year (Days 80-100)	End of Year (Days 155-170)
Phase 1	July 5 July 12 July 19 July 26	July 12 - July 30 July 19 - August 6 July 26 - August 13 August 2 - August 20	To be completed by districts	To be completed by districts
Phase 2	August 2 August 9 August 16 August 23	August 9 - August 27 August 16 - September 3 August 23 - September 13* August 30 - September 20*	To be completed by districts	To be completed by districts

\*Extra day includes Labor Day

### When are the Benchmark windows?

- 15 consecutive instructional school days (not including holidays), 3 times a year
- BOY: 15 consecutive instructional school days (not including holidays) within days 6 – 21 of the school year. No testing during the first 5 days to establish relationships and routines.
- MOY: 15 consecutive instructional school days (not including holidays) within days 80 – 100 of the school year.
- EOY: 15 consecutive instructional school days (not including holidays) within days 155-170 of the school year. Complete testing prior to EOGs during the last 10 days.
- The selected 15-day window is an PSU decision, to be shared with NCDPI and Amplify

### Amplify Atlas Kits

The state will not be using Amplify's TRC texts for assessment purposes; therefore, PSUs may determine the best use of the texts within the Atlas kits.

### FAQs

In an effort to continue to provide you real-time information, the Office of Early Learning (OEL) is providing several FAQ documents to address specific questions pertaining to RtA Legislation, LETRS, Amplify Assessments, and Charter Schools. The FAQ documents may be found on the [OEL webpage](#). The current documents are in their initial stages, yet will continue to be updated regularly as we have more answers to your questions.

c: Catherine Truitt, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Dr. David Stegall, Deputy Superintendent of Innovation

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