



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Scores released for Idaho's new K-3 reading test

(BOISE) – State, district, and school level results on the state's new early reading tests were released today.

The new Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI) was piloted last year and all students in kindergarten through third grade took the new test this fall.

The new IRI provides a wealth of information for teachers to help students hone their reading skills and prepare for academic success, Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra said.

"We're excited to get our first results from this new early reading test, which gives a much more complete picture of which aspects of reading our youngest students are mastering, and where they need the most help," Superintendent Ybarra said. "Educators throughout the state are using these results to more effectively tailor their teaching to individual students and help them gain the skills essential to lifelong learning and achievement."

Schools and teachers have immediate access to student results to shape instruction and identify extra help for students. Since the end of the testing period, the State Department of Education has been compiling results for today's release.

Statewide results show that of about 89,000 K-3 students:

- 52.5 percent were at grade level
- 24 percent were near grade level
- 23.4% were below grade level

Parents are notified when a student is not at grade level and a plan is created to provide the student extra support. Students near grade level are eligible for 30 hours of extra help and those below grade level qualify for 60 hours of additional support funded through the state's literacy intervention program.

Individual grade results show the percentages of students at grade level during the first month of school this year:

- 45 percent of kindergartners
- 42.9 percent of first graders
- 60.3 percent of second graders
- 61.9 percent of third graders

The results from the new test should not be compared to the old IRI because the two tests are very different, SDE Director of Assessment and Accountability Karlynn Laraway said. The old IRI was retired last spring and measured children’s fluency in reading – basically, how fast they could read, Laraway said.

The new IRI assesses phonemic awareness, letter knowledge, vocabulary, spelling and comprehension as well as fluency, Laraway said.

“This assessment gives a more complete view of students’ skills and helps teachers focus their instruction to meet their students’ individual needs and monitor their progress,” she said.

Response to the online test, administered this August and September, has been positive, Laraway said. Educators throughout Idaho trained on the new test this summer.

This fall, teachers statewide completed training on how to use the data from this assessment to inform instruction. In a feedback survey, teachers gave the training high marks, commenting on ease of use and “real information that I can put to use immediately.”

In addition, teachers have new tools to monitor their students’ progress throughout the school year between the fall and spring state tests.

Parents receive a detailed report about their child’s skills and development. And they can link to other resources, such as recommended books for their child to read.

District and school-level results from the new reading test are available on the [State Department of Education accountability](#) website. Students in kindergarten through third grade will take the test again in May.

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Attached: Composite statewide scores from the fall reading test.